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TERMS OF THE DAILY:

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THERE is a poem, occasionally attributed to Milton, and not unworthy of him, which so grandly embodies the glory of the last quotation that it cannot be omitted here. A philological examination of the fourth verse makes it almost certain that Milton never wrote it; it is only included in a few recent editions of his works, and the probability is that it is of American origin, having been written by Elizabeth Lloyd, a Philadelphia Quakeress, herself blind. But, whoever the author, the piece is immortal:

I am old and blind!
Men point at me as smitten by God's frown,
Afflicted, and deserted of my kind;
Yet I am not cast down.

I am weak, yet strong;
I murmur not that I no longer see;
Poor, old, and helpless, I the more belong,
Father Supreme, to Thee!

O merciful One!
When men are farthest, then Thou art most near;
When friends pass silent by, my weakness scorn,
Thy chariot I hear.

Thy glorious face
Is beaming toward me, and its holy light
Shines in upon my lonely dwelling place,
And there is no more night.

On my bended knee
I recognize Thy purpose clearly shown;
My vision Thou hast dimmed that I may see
Thyself, Thyself alone.

I have naught to fear;
This darkness is the shadow of Thy wing;
Beneath it I am almost sacred; here
Can come no evil thing.

O! I seem to stand
Trembling, where foot of mortal never hath been,
Wrapped in the radiance of that sinless land
Which eye hath never seen.

Visions come and go;
Shapes of resplendent beauty round me throng;
From angel lips I seem to hear the flow
Of soft and holy song.

It is nothing now,
When heaven is opening on my sightless eyes,
When airs from Paradise refresh my brow,
That earth is darkness lies.

In a purer clime
My being fills with rapture; waves of thought
Roll in upon my spirits; trains sublime
Break over me unbought.

Give me now my lyre!
I feel the stirrings of a gift divine;
Within my bosom glows unearthly fire,
Lit by no skill of mine.

MERMAID STORIES.

Real and Apocryphal.

One Easter, when I was a Grecian in the Blue-Coat School, I sallied out, rejoicing in my canary colored stockings and my dark blue petticoat, bent on seeing every penny show to be found east of St. Giles's. Near the church I entered one, allured by a large transparent picture of a beautiful woman, basely terminating in a fish, swimming about in a bright green sea.

An invisible organ solemnly grinding at the door roused me to enthusiasm, and drew me in. After waiting ten minutes in a small, murderous den, I joined a rush of people who were making their way to a room above. We all arrived in time in a small apartment, rudely furnished, and lit with two hissing flares of bad gas. There was a tall, coarse giant of a woman with a beard, which, on the contrary, was no fault, to prove it was real; a boy with leopard spots, the color of brown soap on his arm; and a wax figure of a dying Italian brigand, the eyes of which audibly clicked as they revolved in their sockets.

In a second closet sat a boy, in black cotton velvet, with a head enormously enlarged by water on the brain, so that his pumpkin of a forehead buried his leaden eyes, and seemed to crush his little nose to the upper lip. Just as I, seeing us arrive, this terrible phenomenon visibly winked hard at me, and began to whistle that lack-lustre, sentimental tune, "Robin Adair." After this performance, the showman went up and rapped the forehead of the hydrocephalus in black velvet, to show that it was genuine.

A third room disclosed to us the palladium of the exhibition. It was a glass case about three feet high, and revealed the upper half of an indubitable stuffed monkey se vn on to a cod's tail.

"A real mermaid, caught off Cape Horn, in the Indian Arkipelican," cried the showman. "Very great curiosity; only two ever caught alive, and this one of 'em. Real mermaid, ladies and gentlemen."

I could not conceal my scepticism. I examined the creature closer. I plucked it, and said to the person next me, "very well preserved."

The showman had his eye on me, and now he broke forth. Tremendous is the contempt a showman can throw into one word. He offered me my words insulting, and eyed me as if I had been detected trying to administer poison. Every one sided with him as I could see by their faces.

"Preserved!" said he. "*Preserved!* Preserved is in spirits of wine, or sich like. I know what is preserved. My mermaid was never preserved. Yah, you boy, get out there. Out with him."

I don't know what happened, except that there was a scuffle, some one pushed me down stairs, and in a moment I was in the street, and any one dung alive that expressed any scepticism of mermaids at penny shows again.

A belief in the mermaid is kept alive by penny shows, but it needs no such stimulants to preserve English people's belief in witches and changelings, Irish people's belief in banshees and leprechauns, and Scotch people's belief in fairies and brownies. It is impossible to say how long it will be before railways and education root out such superstition.

Only the other day, a Shrewsbury friend of mine told me the following story, to prove how changeless and ignorant our poor still are in retired places. The doctor who attended his family had been late called in to a girl who was suffering from epileptic fits. Her mother had been doctoring her herself, but on a sudden had abandoned her remedies. The reason for this sudden change the doctor could not discover for a long time. At last, in a moment of gossiping confidence, the mother told him the secret of her great remedy for epilepsy, and the reason of its abandonment.

"Look'ee here, doctor," said she: "it was always Jane's custom at the full of the moon to have a fit; so, one day, when I got desperate about it, I thought of an old remedy of my mawther's; and I called our black tom-cat to me, 'Soo soo, pussy,' said I; and when he came to me, I put him in a basket, with his tail out, and went to the dresser and cut off the last joint of his tail; and then I took that and dropped the blood into a tea-cup with some lemon juice, and gave it to Jane. And so I did every month, and each time I gave her a joint she got better. Well, at last, the time came to cut off the last joint of poor pusey's tail; but this time he guessed what I was going to do, and sprang out of the basket, scratched me down the face, and has never been seen since; and that's the real reason, doctor, why I sent for you."

But nature may be mistaken. It will surprise some people to be told that traditions of these amphibious beings are still current in the neighborhood of Dumfries, and all along the shores of the Nith and Orr, as well as by the side of the Solway Firth, which is formed by the mouth of those rivers. Scotland is the last stronghold of the mermaid.

Years ago, in the covenanters' times, a mermaid used to appear the first quarter of every moon, upon a large smooth block of red granite, on the banks of a deep and beautiful pool in the mouth of Dalbeattie burn, which is formed by an eddy of Orr water. On the brink of this pool, glittering like so much boiling quicksilver in the moonlight, this last spirit, sighing for earthly love, would be seen sitting combing her golden fleece of hair and singing her prophecies. A devout Calvinistic farmer's wife, during Claverhouse's persecutions, troubled in spirit at these unearthly visits, went one day, Bible in hand, and, exerting all her strength, toppled the mermaid's granite seat into the foaming pool, that in a moment closed darkly and calmly over it.

But the syren could be raised to hatred, and had the power granted her of revenge. The next morning after this premeditated indignity was offered, the farmer's only child was found dead in its cradle, and the unhappy distracted mother heard a voice from the pool sing words which were often afterwards repeated—

"You may look in your empty cradle,
And I'll look to my stone,
And much we'll think and much we'll look,
But words we will have none."

The farmer's wife had courage, however, and would have the last word, so she offered her arm to collect all the rotten weeds and filth of the neighborhood, and throw them into the pool, till the stream grew tainted and polluted, and the mermaid, fairly worsted, blew for blow, departed, leaving a curse on the farmhouse on the house, a curse which was fulfilled.

Now, this legend deserves comment for several reasons. In the first place the exact date given, the "time of the last persecution," during the period when the Scottish people began to chase away the beautiful phantoms of old paganism that still haunted Scottish linns, tarns, haughs, braes and old chateaux. This was the time when Covenanters were supposed so occasionally overpower the devil in single combat, to bang him with oak sticks, and to tumble him over bridges; witches, changelings and fairies were still believed in, but the wilder and more exceptional spirits, like the mermaid, had already received notice to quit. Now, the mermaid, being half the old Romanized Greek syren—the mischievous and beautiful misleader of men—and half the malicious Norse water sprite, her reception and dying away from the sea air. The mermaid, therefore, was one of the first superstitions to pass away.

The legend is also curious from its distinctly pagan character. The mermaid has the power to kill as well as to bewitch, and that unlimited and tremendous power proves it, in my mind, to be of pagan origin.

The quaintest and prettiest mermaid legends that still linger in any definite form exist in Galloway. One of these Scotch mermaids was, it is said, good and beneficent, and used to appear on the moonlit banks of the Firth, and softly calling monks, to give recipes for a magic salve, that was as infallible a remedy as venerable Doctor Anderson's Scotch pills. A lover was once walking by the side of the river at night, lamenting a girl to whom he was betrothed, and who was dying of consumption. Up rose the medical mermaid, and sang to him these words:

"Would you let the bonny May die in your hand,
And the sap wax flowering in the land?"

The simple lover needed only a hint; he cropped the simple, squeezed the flower tops, and gave the juice to the poor hectic girl in the full trustfulness of homœopathic belief. The girl, aided by nature, recovered, and married the youth of her choice.

The mermaid in Scotch legends is no half-fish, half-woman, like the heraldic monster so familiar to us. No, she is a beautiful syren, very proud of her hair, which she keeps "shedding" with one hand and combing with the other. Her midnight song is dangerous to hear, for it beguiles men to death, and those whom she beguiles she bears away to her watery home (a good excuse for calling all men found drowned lovers of the mermaid.)

The precise date of the best authenticated mermaid legend can be exactly ascertained from internal evidence, for the unfortunate hero is always traditionally said to be William Maxwell, Esq., of Cowhill, a richly wooded spot on the banks of the Firth, five miles above Dumfries. Now this Mr. Maxwell was nephew of the Lilly of Nithsdale, who is said to have died in the flower of her age, about the time of the Reformation. I do not champion this indisputable accuracy of these dates, but we presume them to be tolerably correct. I therefore infer that about Elizabeth's reign some country minstrel wrote a ballad on a young knight who some twenty years before, on the eve of his marriage, had been carried off by a mermaid—in other words, accidentally drowned in the Firth.

The fine old song describes the knight accosting a beautiful maiden whom he sees seated at nightfall on a seaside rock, half covered with sea weed. She binds a tress of her yellow hair in a witch knot around his brow, and throws him into a magic trance, then, taking off his mantle and cap, and ring she casts them into the sea, and folding him into her arms, passes into the white foam of the breakers and disappears.

A belief in the mermaid still exists in the Orkney Islands, and as the inhabitants of those sporades live near the mermaid's home, they ought to be good authorities. Between the islands of Jura and Scarba there lies the dangerous Gulf of Corrivrekin, where shelves and eddies are the haunts of a mermaid who there floats and couches with comb and mirror.

There is an old Gaelic legend, still firmly believed, that M'Phail, a gentleman of Colonsay, was once carried off by a mermaid while passing this gulf in a boat. They resided together in a submarine grotto for several years, during which time the aquatic wife bore the chieftain five children. Finally he grew tired of her, pined for fresh air, haggis and singed sheepshead and Scotch small ale, prevailed on his wife to swim near the shore with him. Taking a mean advantage of her confidence, he scrambled and splashed to land, and thus escaped.

This mermaid of Corrivrekin could appear when she chose, without her scaly train; but she was then more cannibalish, and more to be dreaded. She seldom, however, allowed her lovers to see her in this alarming plight.

Nor has the Gaelic belief died out. It is not quite thirty years ago that numerous letters were written to Sir John Sinclair by enthusiastic persons, who deposed to having seen a mermaid in a bay near Caithness.

The same superstition exists, or did exist till lately, in the Isle of Man. There is a legend that a beautiful mermaid once fell in love with a Manx shepherd, who watched his flocks near a creek. She used to bring him presents of coral and pearls; but one day, when he tried to threw her arms around him, he suspected she was going to drag him into the sea, and struggling from her, fairly ran away. The waterspirit, enraged at the suspicion and the disappointment, threw a stone at him as he then leaped into the sea, never to return. The youth, though not apparently at first injured by the pebble, was instantly seized with excruciating pains, and died in convulsions.

At another time, some Manx fishermen caught a mermaid, fish-tail and all complete. As she would neither eat nor sleep, the men, fearing the island would be visited by some terrible calamity if she died of hunger, took counsel of their hut open on the third night, so that she might escape. The mermaid was not slow to seize the opportunity, and gilding down with incredible swiftness to the shore, plunged into the water, greeted by a shout from the men who were distinctly heard to inquire, in good Manx, what she had seen among the natives of earth. "Nothing wonderful," she answered cheerfully, "except that you are stupid enough to throw away the water in which they boil their eggs."

There is a third tradition that the fogs that so continually enfold Mona were first caused by a mermaid whose love had been despised by a young Manxman.

About a hundred years ago some divers descended into the sea off the Isle of Man, to search for treasure. A very industrious, if probably the greatest liar in the island—descended alone, and kept pulling for more rope till so much line was exhausted that it was calculated he had attached to him a rope at least twice the distance of the moon from the earth.

When he came up he had a pretty story to tell. The bell had gone down below the fish country, into a pure region paved with coral and shining pebbles, which were large strong set, and squares ornamented with pyramids of crystal, while the buildings were of mother-of pearl, embossed with patterns in colored shells. Going through a passage, dragging the bell after him, he found himself in a room in which were amber chairs and tables. The floor was of rough diamonds, topazes, rubies and pearls. Why not bring up some of them? Very true, a few of these would make the world run about on sand wrecks; but, unfortunately, they were too closely wedged in and cemented. On the jasper walls hung, attached by rush-strings, chains, ear-rings, and rings, of finely cut precious stones, the waifs and strays of earth. He had just edged himself within a foot of these, when, unfortunately, he was drawn back from want of line.

If the rogue had not line enough, he spun a yarn long enough, and such a one as whisky seldom before inspired.

There are some people who regret the passing away of such superstitions. There is a poetry about them, and a grace, and an ideality, that they think raises the poor man above his lowly cares and sordid life. There was that poetry; but who would take the roof off a cottage to make it more picturesque?—*London Cassell's Magazine.*

The Feeling in Alabama.

The rebel feeling in Alabama, judging by authentic accounts, is still blindly ignorant and bitter. It appears that impregnable faith in secession and Southern superiority is yet the cherished idea of the masses, and that to own slaves and raise cotton is yet the sole object and aim of life. A correspondent, writing from Montgomery, declares that free speech is permitted in all things, provided it is not against slavery, Generals Lee and Forrest, Mrs. Surratt, Belle Boyd, Libby, Andersonville or Fort Pillow, opposition to reconstruction laws of Congress, and everything said or done by loyal men. On every other subject the fullest and most liberal freedom is given. In accordance with the code, any white man who manifested, by his ballot at the late election, an approval of the reconstruction acts of Congress, was instantly reported by a committee of the chivalry and his name was published in every "high-toned" paper within reach. The Montgomery *Daily Advertiser* threatened as follows: "If you would not have the fact thrown up to your children in after years, to their eternal disgrace, don't vote at the election to fasten the ruin and desolation that Sumner and Stevens have in store for you." The Mobile *Daily Register* said: "After the election we will publish a complete list of those *patriots* who voted to adopt the new constitution." It is very inspiriting, however, to hear courageous words for freedom spoken in the face of these denouncers. The Montgomery *Sentinel* said: "The destructive war-of-races papers here endeavor to deter loyal white men from voting by a threat to publish their names. Well, the white Republicans are not to be scared by any such notoriety. They love their government too well to be intimidated by rebel scribblers and pen-guerillas. Loyal hands have been imbrued in the blood of Federal soldiers. They are not afraid of publication by the savage, traitorous crew who visited such vile atrocities upon Union men, women and children during the war. Are afraid of men whose inhuman treatment of the prisoners at the Libby and Andersonville prisons finds its counterpart only in the Black Hole at Calcutta. These loyal men, unlike most of these cowardly dupes, think and act for themselves, and are not to driven about as slaves by whips and lashes."

The Extent of Fenianism.

The extent of the ramifications of Fenianism is but little known to the general public.

The sympathy with Fenianism among the ultra Liberals of Paris, we are assured is very general and no doubt exists in my mind that there is a serious organization here, composed as well of Frenchmen as of Irishmen, whose object it is to support the cause of Irish independence. Even some of the government organs—the *Etendard*, for example—openly favors that cause, and only recently the coldness of sympathy with England in official quarters, (by giving England notice of certain conspirators being here,) you may be sure that a very important center of Fenianism is in this very city of Paris.

Mr. Sullivan, editor of a Fenian journal, the *Weekly News*, who is being prosecuted by the English government for "exciting to hatred and contempt of the realm," has been here this week, undoubtedly in consultation with certain revolutionary Frenchmen, and no less with Irish refugees. The report in the English papers that Garibaldi is hostile to Fenianism is quite untrue; on the contrary, there are good na-ous made by that the party of which Garibaldi and Victor Hugo are leaders, encourage Irish rebellion, and wish to connect that event with a universal Democratic revolution in Europe. That is a good starting point, they think.

A Somewhat Hard Case

has been decided at the courts of Anglers, France. According to the terms of the French law the child of a widow, if born three hundred days after her husband's decease, is considered as legitimate. Madame Mercier, a widow, pleaded for the recognition of her son, born three hundred days six hours and a half after the decease of her husband. The decision of the court was that the child was illegitimate, by the strictest lines, as the facts prevent the child from inheriting his share of M. Mercier's property, which he would otherwise have claimed.

About two months ago a fellow, while looking at some diamond rings at Dubine's store, in Cincinnati, dashed into the street with two dozen of them, valued at fifteen thousand dollars, was pursued and caught, but not until after he had lost six of them. He gave his name as Marsh. Yesterday, in court, he plead guilty, and immediately, in some unaccountable manner, slipped out of the court-room through a crowded lobby, some one along with him saying, "Make way for the prisoner," and made good his escape.

BALTIMORE AND PITTSBURGH.

Meeting of Directors of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

Completion of Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road.

ITS COMPLETION CERTAIN

Pittsburgh's Shortest Path to the Sea.

Addresses of President Garrett and Ex-Governor Bradford.

[From the Baltimore Sun, of Thursday.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company was held yesterday, at Camden Station. The attendance was large, and the following gentlemen, recently appointed directors upon the part of the city, were present: Messrs. Charles Webb, William Dean, James A. Henderson, Thomas O. Sellers, John F. Wiley, F. W. Bennett and W. A. Cunningham.

A proposition was presented from the city of Cumberland, for the transfer of certain lands to the company, providing a rolling mill for the manufacture and rerolling of rails should be erected in that city. The President stated that in view of the difficulty of securing iron of satisfactory and uniform quality, a number of railway companies in England and this country had decided upon manufacturing the rails required for their own use. After full and protracted investigations of the subject, the officers of the company were unanimous in expressing their judgment that the company should erect a rolling-mill. Numerous sites had been proposed, and liberal offers made to supply the requisite land.

As Cumberland was a central location, near the region from which coal could be procured for the supply of the mill, and as the Connellsville road might be expected at an early day to be connected at this point, that city seemed to present a suitable location. The president felt sure it would gratify the board to meet the unanimous wishes of the people of Cumberland in adopting that location, if it were determined to erect the mill, and thus aid in alleviating the population of the city of the second city of the State of Maryland. The committee of finance had unanimously determined to recommend the erection of the mill, and the acceptance of the proposition of the city of Cumberland, in accordance with the recommendations in the report of the master of the road. The president cordially joined in this recommendation.

It was stated that about twenty thousand tons of iron was now required annually by the road and its branches. Also, that it was due to the Abbott Iron Mill, a very extensive establishment, erected within the past two years in Baltimore, to state that the iron manufactured at that mill had, as far as tested, proved to be of superior quality. But even with this additional facility, a mill, under the charge of the officers of the company, who would select the quality of iron to be placed in the rails, was deemed advantageous.

Subsequent to the remarks of the President, it was decided, without division, to accept the proposition and erect the mill.

Favorable action was also adopted upon the application of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad Company for financial assistance for the construction of their road from Strasburg to Harrisonburg, and the matter in reference to which, and other subjects before the Board, were made in the following address by Mr. Garrett.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Gentlemen: The present affords a suitable occasion to call attention to some important events which have recently occurred and are about to transpire, and which are, to an important degree, connected with the interests of this company and of this community.

The Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad Company, which has been recently reorganized financially, has proposed, through its chief officers and owners, that a new board of directors shall be elected, composed of leading citizens of Baltimore and Cincinnati, with representatives upon the local boards of each road, with further propose that the Vice-President of this company, Mr. John King, Jr., shall be elected President of that company. In order to bring about a closer harmony of action and policy in working that road in connection with the Parkersburg Branch and Baltimore and Ohio Company.

This company has steadily pursued the policy of perfecting the Parkersburg branch road. The twenty-three tunnels on that line are being arched rapidly, although at enormous cost. The length of these tunnels will exceed three and a half miles. Two-thirds of this difficult work is already completed, and forces sufficiently large are engaged to insure that the remainder will be finished within the present calendar year. The expenditures on this account will not work continue to be fifty thousand dollars per month. Arrangements have also been made to proceed with the construction of the bridge to connect the Parkersburg road with the Marietta and Cincinnati road.

Among the most interesting developments since the decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has been the efforts to secure a connected with those roads to arrange for the joint use of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road in connection with the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. All can appreciate its vast importance and the advantages to Baltimore of that connection, when attention is called to the fact that whilst the distance from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia by the Pennsylvania road is three hundred and fifty-five miles, the distance from Pittsburgh to Baltimore, by the Connellsville road is but three hundred and twenty-six miles. We thus obtain a direct line under Baltimore and Pittsburgh influence, less so materially than the distance between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. We cannot only command this difference of twenty-nine miles, but with a line of superior grades.

Whilst the maximum grade of the Pennsylvania road is ninety-six feet to the mile, it is expected that the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road will be constructed with a maximum grade of but fifty feet to the mile. Thus in the equation the distance will be further largely in favor of the Connellsville road. Pittsburgh will thus obtain her *shortest path to the sea*, an advantage which must necessarily add to her prosperity. The entire northwest will participate in this marked and practical advantage of securing the shortest and *cheapest* outlet to the ocean.

The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road presents, in a national point of view, a very important relation. The distance from Pittsburgh to Cumberland via Connellsville is 148 miles; from Cumberland to the Point of Rocks 109 miles; from the Point of Rocks to Washington, by the Metropolitan road, 42 miles, making the distance from Pittsburgh to Washington via Connellsville road, 299 miles. From Pittsburgh to Washington via the Pennsylvania Central and Harrisburg and Northern Central Roads, the distance is 374 miles, making a distance in favor of the vast travel of the Northwest, as well as of Western Pennsylvania, from Pittsburgh to Washington of seventy-five miles when the Pittsburgh and Connellsville, and Metropolitan roads are completed.

The Baltimore and Ohio Company will be enabled also to bring the western passengers, via the Metropolitan road and the city of Washington, to Baltimore—thus giving them the advantage of visiting or seeing the national capital *en route*, and avoiding the curves on the present line in the valley of the Patapsco, whilst, practically, the new line can be thus used with equal economy.

Surrounded by such facts and circumstances, it cannot be doubted that the city of Baltimore will join promptly and energetically in carrying out this great programme for the advancement of her interests.

The President stated that he had not the slightest hesitation in expressing, as a matter of deliberate judgment, that if the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road be built, within a single year after its construction the value of that road to the community in increasing the business that will fall into the lap of Baltimore will exceed the whole amount the city of Baltimore has invested in that road.

The committee of finance authorized the purchase of the property of the Baltimore and Cuba Smelting and Mining Company, at Locust Point for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. That purchase has been made, and the improvements are in progress at that point which will be needed in connection with the general interests of the company.

The board is aware that a contract was made a short time since with parties in New York who have leased extensive grounds and are arranging facilities for a very large business in petroleum at Locust Point. It is confidently expected that when the Connellsville road is built a very large portion of the oil business of Pennsylvania, in addition to that from West Virginia, will concentrate at Baltimore as the most economical point of shipment; and these negotiations for capitalists from New York under their contract having in view the large business in oil which the completion of the Connellsville road would command from Pennsylvania to Baltimore. The President of the Allegheny Railroad Company, whose road reaches the most important oil regions, expresses much anxiety for the early completion of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road, to which he looks as a leading outlet for the oil transported upon that line. The grain trade of Western Pennsylvania and the whole west will also be induced to Baltimore by the economy and facilities of this line.

The policy of the Baltimore and Ohio Company has been to prepare for the connections in advance. It has never failed that ultimately the obstructions would be removed and the road built. The company therefore pressed the construction of its double track, which has been completed at large cost, so that now, at the moment arrangements are being made to complete the Connellsville road, you offer a first class double tracked road from Baltimore to Baltimore, by which any excession of business can be conveniently and economically transported on the Baltimore and Ohio road.

Extensive as the present arrangements at Locust Point are, the increase of the company's trade will require their immediate enlargement. Enterprising parties from Northern cities are arranging to erect warehouses for storage purposes, and to furnish receipts upon the system adopted in New York, which will enhance the value obtained upon the goods so stored. Propositions are also pending for the erection of extensive grain elevators, so that the best and most economical facilities may be furnished for this important and increasing trade.

The Company entered into an engagement with the North German Lloyd Steamship Company for the construction of a pier head at Locust Point, to be ready in season for the use of the steamers of the Bremen line. The President had the gratification to state that four hundred feet of the pier have been completed and ready for the reception of the steamer that first arrives will have ample and excellent accommodations. The plan adopted is to build the pier 650 feet in length by 85 feet in breadth, to be three stories high, thus presenting and supplying 55,250 square feet of covered pier space.

The President had also the satisfaction to state that Messrs. Albert Schumacher & Co., the agents of the North German Lloyd, are officially advised that the first steamer of the Bremen line will arrive at the port of Baltimore on the first of March, and the Berlin on the first of April, and that arrangements have been made for the return of these steamers from Baltimore to Bremen on the first of May and first of May, respectively, and regularly thereafter a steamer from each port on the first of each month. Each of these steamers will touch at Southampton on each voyage for passengers and freight.

The steamers of the Baltimore and Liverpool line, viz: the Worcester, Somerset and Carroll, will be put in the arranged for the opening of season, the first sailing on the 25th of this month. It is designed to so arrange the arrival and departures of the Bremen and Liverpool steamers that Baltimore will have a fortnightly arrival and departure during the season, and that Baltimore will have a fortnightly arrival and departure during the season, and that Baltimore will have a fortnightly arrival and departure during the season, and

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1868.

THE FREE RAILROAD FARCE.

Early in the session it was given out that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company would not resist the Free Railroad Bill in the House, but would make a stand in the Senate. That body being smaller, it was said that a less number would be necessary to defeat the bill. And this has proved to be the case. Yesterday the bill which was substituted for the House bill was passed in a shape even worse than it was in when the substitution was first made. A solid majority of Senators have stood for the Monopoly from first to last, with a steadiness and with an absence of reason at once suggestive of convictions that can arise only from the strongest arguments. We judge that the bill has been got into such a shape that no railroad can be built under it. That is just what the Pennsylvania Company meant; and, of course, is just what the people do not want.

Thus the great interests involved in a Free Railroad Law have been again sacrificed, and this time by those who, both in and out of the Legislature, have professed to be strongly for it.

The Senate Bill will go to the House. We cannot believe that that body will consent to what will be an obstacle rather than a benefit in building of new roads. The House perfected its own bill. It is to be presumed that it understood what it was about at the time. A majority of the Senate have sent back something totally different—a bill framed to prevent, not facilitate, the construction of Railroads in Pennsylvania. What but reject it and adhere to its own bill can the House in decency do? The members will then have discharged their duty, however recreant a majority of the Senators may have been. We despair of getting a genuine Free Law this winter. We only want the record, and we hope our correspondent has not failed to obtain it complete, so that the whole State can know *how*—if they cannot know with equal proof *why*—every man voted on the bill and the amendments. We know the people are right on this question, and will fight right on as they have done. But their first business will be to take care of the recreants.

THOUGHT AND INSTINCT.

MOLIERE informs us how SGANARELLE was made a physician in spite of his remonstrances and protestations of ignorance of the medical art. SGANARELLE'S wife, in revenge for a beating he had given her, told two young people in search of a doctor, that her husband was a very skillful one, who was unwilling, however, to practise his art, and could be made to do so, or to own to knowledge of it only by blows. After some parley it was found necessary to proceed to extremities. SGANARELLE in vain assured the inquirers, who wanted a doctor to prescribe for a young lady affected with loss of speech, that he was a poor wood-cutter quite ignorant of all the sciences. They insisted that he was a noted physician, and the very person they wanted, and on his persistent resistance proceeded to administer a sound cudgelling. The result was the same often formerly seen in the application of torture. SGANARELLE gave in and said, "well, yes sirs, since you will have it so, I am a doctor. *I am* a doctor; an apothecary also if you wish it. I'd rather agree to anything than be killed." Moreover, true to a law of human nature, the submission presently began to react upon his own mind. The woodman began to question himself, "Is it possible that *I* have been the deluded party, and that I had become a physician without knowing it?" We may add that SGANARELLE acquitted himself very well in his enforced vocation, and was perhaps quite as successful a practitioner as if he had received the training which, in the seventeenth century, was believed to qualify for the profession. The fact of being then as now was to the many the sufficient reason of being.

The right to think is, in words at least, generally conceded in this country. The claim that they do think for themselves is frequently made by persons with a confidence which implies a conscious knowledge of the reproach involved in the opposite. Books are praised as being suggestive of thought, and public instructors of all classes pay their hearers the pleasing compliment, of addressing them as thinkers, or at least as able and willing to think. Among those who do not attempt, or feel called to instruct others, we sometimes hear the commendation of a lecturer or preacher that he is a thinker, and this is justly regarded as about the highest praise that can be given to such a character.

Notwithstanding this wide and ready recognition of the right and the worth of thinking—we are sometimes afraid that we are not so advanced in wisdom, as the fact might seem to imply. We fear that even in this vivacious and intelligent generation only the minority think, while the majority merely opine. It may even be doubted whether there is universally prevalent anything like a hearty and unreserved belief that it is both the right and the duty of every person of mature age to examine by the aid of his reason and conscience all the great questions of life and conduct which must ever constitute the staple material of public teaching. Intolerance is deeply seated in the human heart, and it is even now in possible to mingle a little even with the most respectable people without seeing unmistakable indications of the old root of bitterness. Some of them would be shocked at the charge, they are not aware that they are open to it. The manifestations which justify it are called by euphemistic names. People are not now, as formerly, condemned to the thumb screw, or the boot for erroneous views. Punishments, however, as painful almost to sensitive spirits, are still inflicted upon those who hold eccentric opinions, if they are candid or bold enough to make them known. To some it may seem harsh and almost unjust to characterize the spirit which inflicts such punishment nowadays as a spirit of persecution. We are not disposed to insist upon the phrase, or the justice of its application. We are more concerned with the cause. This we suppose frequently to be the absence of real thought in the persons who teach and act in the exercise of the spirit referred to. Opinion is said to be "a mental conviction of the truth of some statement founded on a low degree of probable evidence." Many people are perhaps not capable of attaining mental convictions higher or more solid than this. And no doubt there are some valuable principles of life and conduct which must at last rest on a low degree of probable evidence, no more cogent evidence being accessible. There are not many such principles, however. Nearly all really valuable practical truths so called, may be made to found themselves upon proofs so clear and forcible as to compel the assent of rational beings. Our complaint is two-fold. First—that doctrines in favor of which only a low degree of probable evidence can be alleged, are put forward and insisted upon as if they were incontrovertible—as if rational people may not wisely differ about them. In the second place—from want of thought really well established principles are held and taught as if they rested upon merely probable grounds. In other words, opinions are maintained and presented as if they were indubitable and indisputable truths; while indubitable and indisputable truths are maintained and presented as if they were mere opinions. Hence, as PASCAL said, opinion becomes the Queen of the World, and her dominion is often troubled by anarchy and confusion. A truth held as a mere matter of opinion seems weakened by every testimony produced against it, and the more eminent or influential the name cited in opposition, the more severe the shock given to the truth. Hence uneasiness and tendency to disparage and to persecute opponents. On the other hand, an opinion raised to the dignity and influence of an established truth may become exceedingly mischievous. Those in any manner interested in it are powerfully tempted to manufacture supports and motives for its maintenance and extension. Champions of it can be and are made as SGANARELLE in the comedy was made a physician. Men are constitutionally prepared for the deception practiced upon them. It has always been a human tendency to avoid responsibility and the painfulness of thought by going with the multitude to do evil or to do good. In the third canto of the Purgatorio DANTE illustrates this trait of human kind by a simile not very flattering to us. "As sheep," says the divine poet, "issue from the fold by one, by two, or by three at a time, and the others stand timid, turning eye and nose to the ground, and *what the first does the others also do, crowding around it if it stops, and know not wherefore.*" As a parallel to this passage, the commentators quote a sentence from the *Convito*, another of DANTE'S works lately translated by Mr. NORTON, of Boston. "These may be called flocks of sheep, not men; for if one sheep should throw himself down a precipice of a thousand feet, all the rest would follow; and if one for any cause in passing a road should leap, all the rest would do the same, though they saw nothing to leap over."

In a country, and with institutions such as ours, where all our hope of continued prosperity depends, under Providence, on the growing intelligence and wisdom of the people, the sooner we get rid of this sheepish instinct the better. The bell-wether may be a sagacious animal, but he is only a sheep like the rest of the flock.

CHINA OPEN.

Those who have lived during the last thirty years, have witnessed many remarkable things and unexpected events. Our great civil war and its result, the discovery of California and its gold, and the rise of splendid cities with their bright civilization on the Pacific coast, the electric telegraph, in its astonishing extension over the earth; these are a few of the wonders submitted to the observation of millions now alive. We sometimes in mere stupor fail to see, or to realize the strangeness of contemporary events. How amazing when one thinks of it, the manner in which the statement which created such excitement throughout the country, a few weeks ago, about Mr. BURLINGAME'S appointment as envoy for China, was conveyed to us. A dispatch announcing the fact was written in Pekin, on the 23d of November, 1867, and was conveyed by a Chinese courier, on horseback, from Pekin to Kiachta, in Siberia, a distance of 1,200 miles. From Kiachta it was sent by telegraph to CASSIUS M. CLAY, in Petersburg, by whom it was telegraphed to Washington. This, by the way. We began to write for the purpose of saying that nothing has happened for centuries more wonderful or unlooked for by those who knew most about the celestial empire, than the Chinese change of policy towards the nations of the west, and the opening of that exclusive and sealed country to the commerce and diplomatic intercourse of the world. In this event, Americans have a right to feel peculiar satisfaction, because our countrymen have unquestionably exercised a more important agency in its consummation, than the men of any other nationality. Look at the facts of the case. We are warranted in assuming that Commodore PERRY'S expedition to Japan did not take place without exerting powerful influence on the great empire of the Centre. Chinese Statesmen were made to see that they must change their foreign policy or perish. Nor can there be any doubt that the course pursued by our representatives during the English and French occupation of Pekin had the effect of recommending them and their country to the good will of the mandarins. By whatever influenced the Board of Chinese Foreign Affairs three years ago resolved to obtain a knowledge of the principles of conduct by which the nations of the west regulate their intercourse with one another. They accordingly employed the Rev. W. A. P. MARTIN, an American, many years resident in China as a missionary, to translate the celebrated book on International Law by WHEATON, for their use. It is interesting in this region to remember that Mr. MARTIN is a native of Ohio and a former student if not a graduate of Jefferson College. This book written by an American and translated into Chinese by another American has thus become the code by which the vast and ancient Empire of China will probably be guided in maintaining her relations of intercourse with the rest of the world for ages to come. The Chinese government has also established a university for the instruction of the young in the arts and sciences of the West. At the head of this institution have been placed the Mr. MARTIN before mentioned, and a Chinaman of eminence in literature, he having years ago distinguished himself by a life of WASHINGTON, written with the view of holding up our national hero to the admiration of his countrymen. The name of this Chinese is SEU-KI-ON. By the advice of Mr. BURLINGAME an American geologist, Mr. POMPELLY, of New York, we think, was some time ago employed to survey a portion of the Empire in which it was hoped coal would be found—a hope which has not been disappointed. This fact will not be disdained by those who appreciate the civilizing influences that lie latent in that mineral.

Also through Mr. BURLINGAME'S influence the electric telegraph has been extensively introduced, the first wire of considerable length having been used to connect the five ports of the old treaty. Finally, at the earnest solicitation of the Chinese government with Prince KUNG, the regent, at their head, Mr. BURLINGAME has left China invested with full powers to represent the empire in all the great nations of the west. The offer was prompted by the conviction that China can no longer remain isolated among the nations, and that no one is competent to represent her adequately without a perfect knowledge of foreign usages and politics. The days of Chinese arrogant exclusiveness have gone, never to return. Mr. BURLINGAME is appointed to his office for life—but he is accompanied by Chinamen who are expected to qualify themselves by study and observation for the functions of envoys among the outside barbarians. Our distinguished countryman, we learn, was recommended to the celestials by his evident interest in their national welfare shown during six years' sojourn at their Capital and by his numerous successes in diplomacy achieved under their observation.

If we might venture, in the absence of all authoritative information on the subject, we would suggest that Mr. BURLINGAME'S success is to be ascribed to the frank, unreserved republican downrightness of bearing, and simplicity of purpose, which are the proper characteristics of American citizens abroad, when they have courage and manliness enough to act steadfastly on the principles exemplified in the institutions of their country. Americans need only to live their republicanism when in the Old World, to carry all before them in the long run.

PARENTS AND SCHOOLS.

The responsibility of parents is not to be measured by dollars and cents. The loss or injury from neglect or misdirection cannot be calculated. Neither can the responsibility be shifted to another; it cannot be wholly delegated. Yet very many parents act as though they believed that when they have provided teachers for their sons and daughters their duty as to their education is discharged—they have nothing more to do in this respect. Their business matters they do not so readily confide to others. The loss here can be computed. But that teacher to whom a child is entrusted for twenty-four hours, a week, or one-seventh of his time, is not a parent to your child, only in part. He has not a parent's trusts committed to him, and has not his rights in relation to your child. This is at once seen if he punishes your child. You feel that injustice has been done. One of the most able writers on the duties of parents, says they "are bound to devote such time and attention to the subject as to enable them to ascertain whether the teacher discharges his duty with faithfulness." With many parents the ascertaining whether their children like or dislike their teacher or not is the limit of their obligations, and this they learn from their children at home at some time, it may be when they are disaffected in consequence of the faithfulness of the teacher. The child's testimony is all that is asked—an interested and incompetent witness—as to the capability and fidelity of the teacher. It is as if a manufacturer should be condemned as inefficient or incompetent by a disaffected operative or prejudiced visitor.

We have often heard teachers and institutions of learning, accused by parents of defects and of unjust regulations from which they were wholly free. The institutions should be visited, the teachers seen, and the testimony taken on both sides, and even in this case the parent's prejudice would be likely enough to decide unjustly in favor of his child. Even if the defect did exist it might not be sufficient to condemn the whole institution. Imperfection marks everything in this world, and perhaps family government may not be an exception. Parents would not like to have their management of two or three children judged by one or two cases of discipline selected by the servant or by the conduct of the servant only temporarily employed. Would the manufacturer wish to have his establishment judged by the working of the most defective article of machinery to be found in it, or by the most unskilled workman there? And yet this is what many parents are constantly doing. Their children whom they send to school to learn may be urged to study beyond their inclinations; or may have been thwarted in the gratification of their desires for mischief; or their overweening self-conceit may have been somewhat diminished by the disclosure of their ignorance; or they may not have been advanced according to their own exalted opinions of their capacities; or who may have told imperfectly, innocently, or otherwise, what was said or done, and they are full of dissatisfaction with the teachers. Brains the teachers cannot furnish, neither can they train, as they would, the feeble capacities often furnished in consequence of the little power given to them. In this way parents injure their own children, and the reputation of many most worthy teachers.

Parents can make no better investment of a part of their time than by visiting the schools where their children are, and ascertaining just what they are doing, suggesting changes where they may be necessary, and giving encouragement and praise where it may be deserved to children and teachers. It is better that business suffer somewhat and that the gains be a little less than that education of their children be faulty, or it may be wholly defective through their neglect.

THE Democratic party are trying to get back into power on the cry of debt and taxation. Herein they show their contempt for the intelligence of the people. He must have an extremely short memory who does not recollect that the debt and taxation were created by a rebellion for which the Democratic party are responsible. BUCHANAN was President when the war began. We have the testimony of LEWIS CASS that his administration was in league with the South. To say nothing about the tendency of the principles of the party and to go no farther back, it is within the recollection of every one from the outset of BUCHANAN'S administration, he and his Cabinet so shaped affairs as to render the first blow of the rebellion successful. A Democratic Secretary dispersed the Navy so as to be beyond call; a Democratic Secretary filled the Southern and robbed the Northern arsenals, and sent the Army into remote quarters; a Democratic administration placed Southerners in the chief positions abroad; and when the rebellion broke out the South had a large part of the machinery in its hand, and the Government was crippled at all points. Throughout the war the Democratic party sympathised with the South, and in many ways afforded it aid and comfort. The war and the burthens of debt and taxation are the legacy of the last Democratic administration the country has seen. To suppose that the people can forget these things or that they will under any delusion whatever bring another back so soon, is to suppose that men have lost their reason and that no speck of patriotism is left. The national debt, so far from being an argument in favor of the Democratic party, is to every intelligent man a perpetual admonition never again to trust the Democratic party. It is an insult to suppose that the payment of taxes will have any other effect than to strengthen the people in such a determination.

THE protest against the rumored inflation by the reissue of one hundred and forty millions of the withdrawn currency, is all-but universal in business circles. The stoppage of contraction has had a good effect, mainly, however, because of the feeling of stability it created as to the financial policy of Congress. This feeling the recent expansion rumors have had a tendency to unsettle, and Congress could not do a better thing than put a stop to all doubts that would be consequent on a hop-skip-and-jump course on the currency question. The country wants nothing so much as security against sudden changes. It derived strength from stopping contraction; and hardly any change now can have a beneficial influence,—least of all a new departure on a career of expansion. Money is becoming plenty for all legitimate uses. It will not be long, if we only can have stability, before it will find its way into all the business channels for the employment of labor in many ways. Let Congress devote its energies to an adjustment of taxes so as to relieve the manufacturing and producing interests—barring luxuries—from the burthen of taxation as much as possible, and it can safely count on the support of the nation. All that any one wants to know is, that for a certainty our course is to be steady ahead, and no violent diverging either way.

THE *Herald*, perceiving that no headway can be made against GRANT, and that his election to the Presidency is inevitable, is advising the Democratic party to concentrate all their energies so as to prevent the election of a "Radical Congress." That, it thinks, is possible, though it is forced to admit that the ground for great expectations in this respect is very slight. And well it may thus conclude; for in one way and another we may safely count on the Southern States being fully represented in the next Congress, which will give the Republicans an increased strength of some fifty members. Starting with more than two-thirds of the present House of Representatives, the Republicans, with this gain, can afford to lose heavily. The Senate will be Republican inevitably. So the *Herald's* capital is ludicrously small.

THE Boston *Post* says:

"We share in no degree the responsibility for the President's official or personal acts beyond what our judgment impels us to sanction."

So thought the Allegheny County Democratic Convention, when they refused to indorse or even take notice of Mr. JOHNSON. Willing enough to take the offices he has to give, they have no support or even thanks to render him. In this connection, Mr. JOHNSON should make a note or the fact that "BENTON" KERR, his nominee for the Marshalship of Western Pennsylvania, was President of the Convention that studiously refrained from even so much as giving his Excellency a kick. Here's ungratefulness for you!

GEN. HANCOCK'S visit to Texas is said to have worked a great change in him, and fears are entertained by some of his conservative friends that he may become a rank Radical. A private letter from him to a friend in New York, couched in terms whereof some of SHERIDAN'S letters appear to have been taken as guides, intimates, in fact plumply says, that he has "got a belly full" of the sort of Unionism which Mr. JOHNSON and the Democracy are endeavoring to build on. The General returned to New Orleans a good deal changed if not a better man!

NOTWITHSTANDING Mr. PENDLETON'S apparent strength and confidence of his friends, the prospect of his nomination is growing less. A strong organization in favor of bringing out Senator HENDRICKS, of Indiana, is quietly at work with increasing expectations; and they claim to have already divided the West, which Mr. PENDLETON lately claimed was a unit for him.

THE Harrisburg papers scrupulously avoid publishing the ayes and nays taken in the Senate on various propositions in the course of the Free Railroad debate; and the so-called "*Record*" suppresses them also, promising them at some future period. It is altogether likely that Senator EBBETT but mildly expressed the truth when he said the whole thing had been "set up." How much it cost the Pennsylvania Company to do it, can only be guessed at; nor is it of much matter, except perhaps to the stockholders, who, poor souls, have little to say—and know less what becomes of the money.

THE Pennsylvania Railroad Company appear to be fond of running the Legislature. They have been able to control every one the people have elected for several years. But we question whether they are really supreme over the people of the State. If they are they will be able to resist the demand for a pro rata freight law, which will be made from one end of the State to the other. A corporation that is so fond of running the legislature should not be permitted to be idle. Let us have pro rata freight charges, by all means. Why should it cost as much to send freight to Philadelphia from Harrisburg, for instance, as from Pittsburgh; and why should the farmers and dealers all along the line be taxed at this rate? The people require cheap and equal freights all along the route.

IN Philadelphia, after to-day, the inspection of petroleum will be strictly enforced. The act of Assembly exempts lard and whale oils, and oils in bond, or for export beyond the limits of the State of Pennsylvania; all other kinds of refined petroleum, kerosene or burning oils must be tested by the proper officer. Any person who shall sell or deliver coal oils, the fire test of which shall be less than one hundred and ten degrees, Farenheit, or without the brand of the inspector, is liable to a fine of one hundred dollars and an imprisonment not exceeding one year. Adulterators of the fluid after inspection are subject to the same penalty. This is protection which the community every where should have.

FARRAGUT IN EUROPEAN WATERS.—The *Courier Francais* says: America is beginning to take a part in European affairs. The presence of Admiral Farragut's squadron in Neapolitan waters is meant to counterbalance the presence of the French troops in the Papal States. Admiral Farragut has had interviews with many of the most eminent men of the party of action, and is said to have promised them his support. A message was sent off expressly to Caprera, and the answer of Garibaldi is waited for before coming to a final resolution.

STATE POLITICS.

The Republicans of Washington county met in Convention at the Court House, Washington, on Monday, 17th inst., and chose Wm. Moore, one of the editors of the *Reporter*, and John McDonald, of Cross Creek township, delegates to the State Convention. They were instructed for General Grant for President, but no instructions were given on the Vice Presidency.

The Republican Committee of Lancaster county met on Monday in Lancaster. An effort was made in the Committee to leave the selection of delegates to the State Convention to a convention of the voters of the county, but the majority ordered otherwise, and appointed the following delegates to the National Convention:—R. J. Houston, S. A. Hiestand. Delegates to the State Convention—Dr. J. M. Dunlap, J. G. Peters, Wm. M. Wiley, M. H. Shirk, J. C. Stubbs, John E. Wiley. It is said the minority intend to protest, and to call a convention of the people on their own responsibility.

At the Lehigh Republican County Convention, held in Allentown, on Saturday, delegates were elected to the National and State Conventions, instructed to support Grant and Curtin for President and Vice President, and Hartranft and Campbell for Auditor General and Surveyor General.

At the Reading election held Friday, Dr. H M. Nagle, Democrat, received 336 majority for Auditor, over Major H. D. Markly, Republican. A very light vote was polled.

The Hollidaysburg *Radical* has placed the names of Grant and Curtin at its editorial head as its choice for President and Vice President. The editor says "Several of the counties in the State have taken action in regard to being represented in the State Convention to be held in Philadelphia on the 11th of March, and they have indorsed and recommended the nominees of the Soldiers' Convention, which we place at the head of our paper this week, in pursuance of the wishes of the soldiers and the Republicans of this district generally. Our County Committee will also indorse them."

STATE NEWS.

The Chester County Springs property has been sold for $30,000 to a company for a Soldiers' Orphans' Home.

The Clarion County Agricultural Society have chosen the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Captain George Kribbs; Vice Presidents, George T. Henry and Martin Kearney; Recording Secretary, David Lawson; Treasurer, T. B. Barber; Librarian, A. K. Paget; Executive Committee, Samuel Johnston, J. G. Mendenhall, Jas. Sweney, C. J. Rhea, Nathan Myers.

Hon. Samuel Linn, President Judge of the Center Judicial District, has expressed a determination to resign his position on the bench. He is recognized as one of the ablest jurists in the State.

County Superintendents, J. Wilber, of Mercer, C. H. Dale, of Franklin, H. D. Persons, of Crawford, L. F. Fisk, of Erie and W. M. Lind, say, of Warren, will each spend one week at the State Normal School, Edinboro next term, and deliver a course of Lectures upon "The Practical Duties of the School Room."

Eighty-seven companies compose the fire department of Philadelphia, owning forty-seven steam fire engines, eight hand engines, seven of which are in the rural districts; one hundred and six hose carriages, carrying ninety-four thousand feet of hose, and one thousand two hundred and eighty feet of suction hose, and nine hook and ladder trucks, carrying one thousand five hundred and eighty-six feet of ladders. The number of engineers is forty-seven, drivers forty-six, horses ninety-three, ambulances remaining unsold, four. Total number of members, active, contributing and honorary, fifteen thousand three hundred and three. During the year there was but one general alarm of fire.

MR. MEDILL, of the Chicago *Tribune* writes from Washington a review of the Grant-Johnson correspondence, and comes to the only conclusion possible. He expresses it in the following unmistakable English: "Thus we find that nothing is proven by the most important witness, except that General Grant did not admit Johnson's statements to be true, as regards the previous conversation; that Johnson tried to make him violate the law, which he refused point blank to do; that the President endeavored to circumvent and overreach him and failed in that also; and finally, that the only matter remaining in issue was as to the veracity of Grantby between Johnson and Grant. That the former is a perfidious, forked-tongued liar, who never tells the truth except with a fraudulent intent, is the common opinion of the people of the United States; and to put the unverified assertions of such a man against the untarnished veracity of the right, blunt, straightforward soldier, is the very essence of foolishness. As the latter will the saying of a dog at the moon affect that luminary, as the slanderous utterance of Johnson shake public confidence in the word of honor and fidelity to duty of General Grant."

THE Italian journals announce that the Queen of Spain will send to Rome a regiment of picked troops, which are to be stationed there, at the pay of Spain, and have this count as though it was in the service of the latter. Further, all distinctions or advancement accorded to these Spanish officers and soldiers of the Papal Government, will be recognized by that of Spain. Naturally enough, the Italians are incensed at this, and their journals openly threaten that the Spanish vessel to transport the said troops will meet with some misfortune on her route from her starting point to Civita Vecchia. The fact is that were the Garibaldians to attack the ship, and were it to happen that they found it convenient to do so on a well equipped Italian man-of-war, it would be impossible to assert, with any show of reason, that the Italians were to blame for this.

ON the 29th of December a most singular phenomenon was witnessed at Coplapo, in Chile, which a journal in that place describes as follows:

"At about five P. M. owing to the light clouds which covered the sky like a broad curtain of gauze, there appeared two rainbows surrounding the sun. Toward the west was a third rainbow, in a direction opposite to the other two. Soon after, the orb of day was reflected with such intensity from the northern and southern extremities of the central bow, as almost to induce the belief that there were three suns placed in a straight line and equi-distant from each other. The brightness of the apparent suns was so intense as to dazzle the eyes of the beholders. Alternately losing and recovering their brightness, the two apparent suns remained visible until sunset, by which time the rainbow had disappeared.

THERE is said to be another side to General Hancock's story of the removal of the New Orleans Councilmen. A messenger has arrived in Washington to represent the true state of the case. It appears that the seven members of the Council removed comprised all the colored members of the board, and that the alleged violation of the order regarding elections was not without excuse or precedent.

PERSONAL.

—Mr. Storey, editor of the Chicago *Times*, has been divorced from his wife, from whom he has been separated some time. He made no defense.

—Father Hyacinthe, the great French preacher of the barefoot Carmelites, will preach this year during Lent at the French Church of St. Louis, at Rome. This building is not so large as Notre-Dame, of Paris, but its interior is quite brilliant with marble and gold covering the mausoleums of Frenchmen who have died in the Eternal City, and especially of painters. Father Hyacinthe will have a chance of being heard not only by the Cardinals, but by the Pope himself.

—An English paper records, with apparent astonishment at the bravado displayed, the fact that George Francis Train, being asked for his autograph soon after his arrest, wrote "in the presence of the police!" the following revolutionary stanza. We fancy that Mr. Train is equal to even greater audacity:

"Whether on the gallows high,
Or in the battle's van,
The fittest place for man to die
Is where he dies for man."

—Mr. Beecher's Norwood will be issued in book form by C. Scribner & Co., New York, for $1 50.

—A dispatch to the New York *Evening Mail* says a great banquet was given on the evening of the 13th inst., at Horticultural Hall, Boston, by Francis Skinner, Esq., to on that day coming in possession of several millions of property. Over twenty thousand dollars were paid to the florist and the caterer on the occasion. The whole affair is said to eclipse anything of the kind that ever took place in Boston.

—The best penman and one of the most efficient messengers in the War Department is a colored young man named Datcher, whose father was appointed a messenger in that Department in 1828 by John C. Calhoun.

—The arrival of Dickens has demoralized the Bostonians. A respectable divine of that city recently appeared before his people at an evening entertainment, to read one of his peculiar productions, behind a little crimson-covered stand with a rose stuck in his button-hole.

—The Boston *Journal* says of Secretary Welles's letter in the Grant-Johnson correspondence, that it is like the Dutchman's answer to a man's question as to his opinion on a certain matter: "I tinks vat you tink—what do you tink?"

—On smoking in Spain, a writer says: No body chews in Spain, yet singularly enough almost everybody carries his tobacco pouch, well filled with the fine cut, while none but the lowest class smoke a pipe, and but few cigars. The Spaniard, besides his tobacco carries a small tablet of white paper about three inches by one and a half. With these he makes his cigarettes; he takes a leaf in his tablet in which he places about as much fine cut as an American can inveterate chewer will put in his cheeks at once; he then dextrously rolls up the paper, and a cigarette is ready to light; and he takes time on all occasions to make and light. I have seen him stop at the grave with the coffin half out the hearse to make and light his cigarette; at the dinner table between courses, he indulges in his tiny roll, without saying "by your leave," though surrounded by strangers. In the railway car, in the diligence, everywhere the cigar and cigarette are privileged characters.

—While Rev. Mr. Hartapee, presiding elder of the Nashville District of the M. E. Church, was waiting for the train at Mitchellsville, on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, in Sumner county, Tennessee, recently, he was assaulted and driven from the village by some ex-rebel soldiers, and his life threatened if he should ever return. Mr. Hartapee was obliged to walk to Richland Station, where he took the train to Nashville. He was told by the ruffians that his offence was organizing loyal Methodist Churches and encouraging schools for colored people.

—Here is the latest Parisian story: "Jean V—— is a *concierge* or porter, in Paris, and he has a very beautiful daughter, who has been taught music, drawing and Italian. More than this, she has been taught to shave her father. Milord X—— is an Englishman who inhabits the *premiere etage*. He is, of course, immensely rich. One morning the barber does not come to shave Milord, and Milord is in a terrible hurry. He say 'Goddam!' and is otherwise very impolicent. Consequently Miss V—— offers her services. Milord is in raptures; it is a new sensation. A female barber is not uncommon in France, but unknown in England. Milord falls back in delicious rapture as the fair fingers of Miss V—— pass over his face. Of course she becomes henceforth his barber in ordinary. Milord begins to think that life without this barber will be a burden. A body of Scotchmen 'has morals,' and as there are certain objections in England to single gentlemen having beautiful young lady shavers among their attendants, there is nothing for it but a marriage, and a marriage is accordingly announced. Milord will have his barber."

—Sir Culling Eardley, the bigamous baronet recently sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment in England, is certainly a precious specimen of the British nobility. Nine years ago he came of age, and was as prosperously situated as man could ask. He was heir to a large fortune and a baronetcy, and held an honored name. He entered upon a fast career, which soon became dissolute, came over to this country and married an American girl, representing to her that his parents consented to the match, when he knew no such thing. When the marriage became known, however, his father made a settlement upon the lady, and certainly acted in the most honorable manner. Not so his son. He continued his dissipation, quarrelled with his wife and at length induced a separation. Wanting her back again in about two years he wrote a most servile letter of apologies and besought her to return. She, very sensibly, would not, and he married another woman, representing himself a bachelor. When indicted for bigamy, he chose the contemptible defense of endeavoring to prove that his first wife was only his paramour. He failed, notoriously, and received a sentence which is only too light. His fortune is squandered, his friends are alienated, and perhaps the best place for the rone baronet, the exhausted spendthrift, is a quiet place in an English jail, where he can learn to eat simple food and work with his own hands.

—The Rev. Isaac Leeser, whose death is recorded by the Jewish papers, was not merely a man of mark, but in some respects the most eminent Hebrew in America. Born at Westphalia, Germany, he came in 1828, when twenty-two years old to Richmond, and found himself the only minister in the country competent to discharge the pulpit services of the synagoguein the English language. At that time, as we learn from the sketch of his career in the *Jewish Messenger*, American Jews numbered but 1,000, while now they are little less than 500,000, and had but ten congregations, while now there are 300. In 1829 Mr. Leeser took charge of a Philadelphia synagogue, where he remained for twenty-one years, where another congregation was formed for him with which he continued until his death. For twenty-three years he conducted the *Occident*, a monthly magazine which was the first, and for many years, the only Jewish periodical in America. Aside from this, his literary labors were immense, constituting, as were told by the authority already quoted, "the major part of American Jewish literature;" among his works were numerous text books, and volumes on devotional, religious, and controversial subjects, and an entire English version of the Scriptures, while he was the leader of orthodox Judaism in the opposition to the encroachments of the liberal movements. He was a member of many of the Hebrew societies, and had recently been made Dean of the Faculty of Maimonides College.

—A Paris letter says: In my last I informed your readers that the union between Mlle. Adelina Patti and the Marquis de Caux had been irrevocably broken off. It is so; but can dreams be irrevocably forgotten? The young Marquise whose only misfortune is to have more aristocracy than capital, is quite a victim. He was last seen at Rouen in a side box, during the Diva's performance of "Lucia" in that city. A strange rumor concerning her journey north has been told. She was expected at Havre, and the performance was ticketed, when suddenly Mr. Bagler, the manager of the Italiens, to whom she is engaged for all this season, put his veto to her appearing before the Havrais. When the question was asked why he had authorized her to play at Rouen (where the small Opera House made its appearance with 12,000f), the Havrais were informed that an American vessel on the point of sailing was mounted by a crew of enterprising young men who had sworn to carry the prima donna off to New York. Mr. Strakosch, her manager, nothing loath. This is the story, and may not be so improbable and remarkable as it appears. Pattiis more than ever in fashion. The other day Rouen gave her an ovation such as no other person had received from it. The flattered Diva wanted to go to Havre, the other Norman city, where a similar welcome was being prepared for her. But the manager of her theater objected to it, owing, they say, to the fact that there was an American steambont there ready to carry her away by force and bear her to America! That is the newspaper story. It is unnecessary to say that no one believes a word of it. But as Patti and her sister, who are at present traveling through the province with the famous pianist Wolf and some other eminent musicians, are the musical celebrities of France, nothing can be said amiss concerning the two American fairies, as they are called.

—The death of Mr. Claudet, who discovered the process by which a daguerreotype portrait could be obtained in twenty minutes (by fixing of the image by chloride of gold), is reported as having taken place in London, in the last week of December. He was a Frenchman, and had passed the "three score years and ten" of man's ordinary life.

—Mr. Eugene Haywood is now put down on the tax-list of Illinois as the largest land owner in that State, he holds fifty thousand acres, purchased by his father fifty years ago. Recently he purchased twelve thousand acres in Nebraska, at a cost of about seventy-nine cents an acre. He is only twenty-two years of age.

—It is related of the youngest member of the Murat family that, finding his annual income of five thousand dollars insufficient, he resorts to the gaming table to eke out the balance. He played some time since with his most intimate friend, Aquado, while the latter was in a cloudy state of mind, and won $30,000 from him. Aquado, like Murat, is a minor, and was compelled to resort to inconvenient methods to raise the money. The matter finally became compromised, and the Emperor, who has found it necessary to arrange the matter, will probably be out $400,000 by the exploit.

NEWS ITEMS.

The Astor House, New York, has been let for $55,000 per year, while the stores beneath bring $36,000, making an aggregate of $91,000. This may seem a high figure for one building, and yet the plot of land on which the Astor House stands could be covered with a modern structure which would rent for twice or three times that sum; and it would pay William B. Astor to pull down the granite hotel and put up an iron building. This, however, he will never do, inasmuch as the present Astor House is a much more conspicuous monument of family greatness than even the Astor library.

The Lord's Prayer has just been produced in Moscow, printed in all the thirteen Sclave dialects, but with Russian characters and spelling. They are arranged as follows: Sclavonic, Russian, idiom of Little Russian, idioms Bulgarian, Servian, Khorvato-Dalmatian, Tcecck, Slovak, Polish, Kassoubian, and the idioms of Upper and Lower Lucatia. M. Jezber, Professor of the Sclave languages, and formerly editor of the "*Slovenine*," is the author.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* says: We begin to hear complaints that the wheat in this section of the country is winter killed, but it is probably too early in the season for any reliable opinion to be formed, and the farmers are prone to take counsel of their fears. From our exchanges we have more favorable reports in regard to other sections of the country. Through Southern Indiana the wheat never looked more promising at this season of the year than at present.

A Western paper is responsible for the following: "Ottawa Lake," in Monroe county Michigan, ordinarialy a sheet of water of considerable extent, suddenly drained itself by some subterranean channel a week or two ago. The ice was first noticed sinking to the bottom and then immense numbers of fish, principally pickerel and bass, were found gathered wherever holes were cut in the ice. For three days the people of the country round about were busily engaged in cutting out and carrying away the frozen fish. It is said that seven years ago the waters departed in the same way, and returned in a few days, and the people are marvelling at the phenomenon, and praying that the refilling of their pond may not long be delayed.

A well of naphtha has been discovered at Cudaco, in the Caucasus, by boring. At the depth of 274 feet from the surface the liquid was first struck, and for a whole month gave a supply of 1,500 barrels daily. Since then a fresh source has been met, which rises with irresistible force to the height of 40 feet above the ground; the jet being four inches in diameter, and delivering a daily supply of 8,000 barrels.

The nail factory at Greencastle, Indiana, commenced operations on the 8th inst. The factory is a large concern, having three engines of the largest capacity to supply the motive power, and there are eighteen nail machines, which turn out one hundred and sixty kegs of nails per day.

Question for the Debating Society: Is there any necessary connection between heavy beards and bald heads? The London *Spectator* maintains that beards divert the growth of hair from the head, where it is an intolerable burden, to the chin, where it is comparatively harmless.

The Pope of Rome has confirmed the nominations made by the Plenary Council held here last spring, of fourteen additional Catholic Bishops for the United States and as many Catholic Sees over which they are to preside have been also authorized.

The London *Quarterly Review* has just published in its current number an elaborate review of Lockhart's life of Sir Walter Scott. In explanation of the "delay" of thirty years or so in noticing the book, it is stated that Mr. Lockhart was long the editor of the *Quarterly* and that it would be improper for him to criticise his own review; but the time since the biographer's death seems to have been unreasonably long for the preparation of the review.

The Denver *News* describes a novel entertainment there—"a series of religious dances, as practiced among the Indians in the days of Montezuma, and handed down to the present day in tradition. The dances were performed by fifteen Mexicans, who were dressed in suits of many colors, their faces covered with masks, according to custom, while they made music from an instrument more primitive than melodious—the gourd shell."

Some of the Southern railroad and steamship lines, in order to facilitate emigration, have made arrangements to issue a regular emigrant ticket from New York to all points in the South. A special agent is to be stationed at Castle Garden to buttonhole emigrants on their arrival, and prevail upon them to proceed South rather than be a burden. A body of North Carolinians passed through Washington day before yesterday, *en route* to settle in Indiana.

Some controversy appears likely to arise on the question whether green is the national color of Ireland. It has got into the English courts and will soon be before the Queen's Bench. We presume that the Fenians do not so much care to wear green as to be arrayed in the color which the courts shall interdict.

Another Lunatic Asylum—Horror in West Virginia.

A correspondent of the Wheeling (W. Va.) *Register*, speaking of the management of

Weekly Commercial.

TENDENCY OF THE SCHOLARLY.

Mr. Gladstone on "Ecce Homo."

The *Scottish American Journal*, of New York, congratulates the public that the comparative leisure which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain is enjoying is being devoted to the highest studies that can possibly engage the mind of man, all the more gratifying, indeed, that in these "sceptical times there is a too manifest tendency, on the part of the talented and scholarly, to give the go-by to religion and almost all that properly belong to it." Our Scottish contemporary might have gone a step further and stated that the "tendency of the scholarly" of the present day is not alone to give religion the go-by, but to assail it in its most sacred and vital parts. It is only necessary to glance at the pages of some of the best advertised magazines of the day to satisfy one of the correctness of this assertion. With the *Scottish American* we think, therefore, it is well that such as Gladstone, with his great talent and his profound and varied learning, is ranged on the side of a conservative, yet rational and progressive Christianity. So far as his criticism upon "Ecce Homo" has progressed, it is observed that Mr. Gladstone is in perfect sympathy with its author, and in every high and true sense "the champion of Christian principle and the defender of the ancient bulwarks of the Christian Church."

Business of Railroads.

The New York *Tribune* says: The earnings of railways in 1868 thus far exceed the expectations of their managers and the public. The opinion has widely prevailed that the large traffic of 1867 was exceptional, and that after the pressure was over, proceeding from the movement of the crops, their earnings would recede to points where dividends would be made insecure, if they were not reduced in numerous cases. It now begin to appear that the natural increase of the business of the country traversed by the railways has been underestimated, and that, while people have been looking for the reaction following the rebellion, the increased development of the country has neutralized the losses expected from that cause, and given the roads a permanent traffic from which regular income is made secure. The early part of 1867 was similarly marked to the permanent paying roads the Cleveland and Pittsburgh, the Northwestern, and the Michigan Southern Roads. The former, with good management and increased permanent traffic, will soon resume dividends, and its shareholders receive scrip to represent earnings spent in construction, new cars, engines, &c. The Northwestern, after paying, in a few months, $1,500,000 of debt, is said to now in possession of a traffic which will not only enable it to pay the 7 per cent. due the preferred stock in 1867, but to pay in the current year 7 per cent. The Michigan Southern, at its annual meeting, will make a statement hardly less favorable to its share-holders as many previous statements have been unsatisfactory. It promises to show net $1,750,000, a sum which will enable its managers to resume dividends, with every assurance of soundness. If the traffic is no greater than in 1867, which it cannot fall to be. This company has used fully $3,000,000 of earnings in new works, for which, following the example of other roads, it would be justified in issuing a stock dividend. Taking all things into consideration, the railways of 1868 are safer property than they were in 1867.

Mr. Greeley not as Much of a Reformer as he was.

In his lecture on "Self-made Men," Mr. Greeley makes the following confession of an important change in himself: "There was once a time when I regarded all reforms as possible, and almost as within the compass of immediate creation. Later and more sober reflections, based on experience, have convinced me of the truth of what the young reformer said, that 'old Adam was too strong for young Melanchthon.' I therefore withdraw myself, call back my forces, and stand on the platform of education for the millions, not as the complement of reforms, but as the basis of all reforms. [Applause.] Yes, I was wont to ponder and speculate, and talk very much of social reforms, of the rights of placing and regimenting, as it were, of men and women for the battle of life. These later reflections, while they have not at all tended to belittle my conception of the value of the great changes which I then contemplated, have led me to place the greater stress upon questions concerning education, or the right training of men and women for the battle of life. How to advise and to act so that the generation of men and women to succeed us shall be nobler, and truer, and worthier, and more effective for good than those they are to displace—this seems to me, if not the largest, at least the most hopeful question to consider. And if have thus been led to question, somewhat boldly, somewhat sharply, our current systems of higher education, not as absolutely unfit, but as only specially fitting men for certain avocations, while in much larger measure unfit for usefulness remains relatively unprovided for."

St. Louis and Fort Benton.

The St. Louis *Republican* of the 13th says:—One of the New York papers, in noticing the fact that a company has been organized to run steamers between Sioux City and Fort Benton, seems to think that Chicago has executed a "flank movement" on St. Louis by this arrangement. But it so happens that St. Louis gentlemen are concerned in this business and have prepared to run a line of St. Louis boats from Sioux City. St. Louis may not be so severely "flanked" by such a movement after all. The Chicago and Northwestern Road connecting at Omaha with the Sioux City road will undoubtedly take a good deal of Chicago freight for Montana. But no power on earth can take from the Missouri river the bulk of trade in spring and summer up to a well advanced period in the season. Boats from St. Louis will go loaded as heretofore. The establishment of the Sioux City line to Fort Benton is a benefit to St. Louis as well as Chicago.

MR. GREELEY'S last chapter of "Recollections" is devoted to the Spiritualists and their doctrines. His conclusion is as follows: On the whole (though I say it with regret) it seems to me that the great body of the Spiritualists have not been rendered better men and women—better husbands, wives, parents, children—by their new faith. I think some have been improved by it—while many, who were previously good, are good still—and some have actually deteriorated. I judge that laxer notions respecting marriage, divorce, chastity and stern morality generally have advanced in the wake of "Spiritualism." And while I am aware that religion has so-called been usually a purely material origin, so that revivals have often been charged with making persons insane whose insanity took its hue from the topic of the hour, there is no existence in purely physical causes, I still judge that in the aggregate of both insanity and suicide has been increased by "Spiritualism."

The Round Table discusses the subject of equality on our railways, and lets drop the following, just to show how exclusive we are in everything else: We might keep up some distinctions of class or caste at our homes; our wives might insist that Bridget should receive her cousin in the kitchen, and not entertain him in the drawing-room; we were permitted to have a dress-circle and even private boxes in our theaters; and in the churches there were "free seats"—sometimes very nasty, as other free things often are—on which the poor might sit to have the gospel preached to them. But when business or pleasure led us to the railway cars, we bade farewell to these aristocratic distinctions and demeaned ourselves as behooved Democrats who practised what they preached.

Messrs. Charles Bathgate, Skiddy and Constable, of New York, have each bought a fourth interest in the celebrated racer, Kentucky, Mr. L. W. Jerome, himself, retaining the remaining fourth. The sale was made at the rate of $40,000 for the horse. Kentucky is to be returned to the turf, and has been entered for races at some of the eastern spring meetings. He is by Lexington, dam Magnolia, by Glencoe, and was bred by Mr. John M. Clay, of Ashland, Kentucky, in 1861. He ran and won once as a two-year old, at Patterson, New Jersey. As a three-year old he ran seven times, winning six races. As four years old he ran and won seven times; and at five he started and won the same number of times. After that, finding no opponent, he was withdrawn.

THE Washington correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* writes as follows: The impeacher's say that General Grant defeated the project. I don't hear that anybody charges him with having obtruded or volunteered his advice—if it was asked I presume he gave it, and against the measure. On the 11th he true—taking the impeachment men at their own word—that his nod or advice defeated the scheme, I think the country is under new obligations to him. In the advice we have further testimony of his sound and good sense; and some of those who scold at him most, might both learn of him his instinctive sympathy with the calm and mature judgment of the nation.

THE *Commercial Bulletin* expresses the following opinion concerning the trade prospect: "The feeling is decidedly better than in the latter part of 1867. It is evident that there is no longer room for the wide fluctuations and decline in prices which have ruined many houses in the past two years, and without any prospect of a change in the currency or nearer approach to a gold basis for some years at least, there is greater confidence in entering upon business transactions. Demand and supply will now resume, to a great extent, their legitimate control of the markets, excepting, of course, in the event of Congress passing extraordinary laws regarding finances or tariff."

ALL persons who expect to avail themselves of the privileges of the national bankrupt act should file their petitions before March 2, as there is an unsettled question as to whether the "one year" within which discharges without the consent of creditors can be granted to debtors whose assets do not pay fifty per cent. of the claims against the estate, began March 2, 1867, the date of the approval of the act, or June 1, the date of its full operation. The latter opinion is probably correct, but petitions filed before March 2 will be sure to be allright.

The English sparrows which have taken so kindly to the squares and parks of New York, are now numerous in Newark and other neighboring cities, and by their hardiness and cheerfulness under adverse circumstances, put to shame their cousins of American birth.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 19, 1868.

Government securities showed great steadiness in New York to-day. There was scarcely a fractional variation from yesterday's rates. Business in these securities was pretty brisk at some of the principal banking houses. Many of the banks purchase bonds in the absence of the right description of paper offering. Holders of Government bonds, many of them, seem to be waiting for some definite action in Congress. If the loans are to be taxed 2 per cent., as proposed, at least 25 per cent. of their value will be cut off at once; and if no such tax is levied, but an additional amount of currency is authorized, a very considerable per centage may be added to their price. During the inaction of Congress between these two propositions, holders of Governments pause in doubt.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, report the following quotations for governments as received from Jay Cooke & Co., their New York correspondents:—U. S. 6s 1881, 111⅛; U. S. 5-20s, '62, 111¼; do '64, 108⅞; do '65, May and November, 109⅝; do '65, January and July, 107⅜; U. S. 10-40s, 105¼; May, 1865, Compounds, 112⅜; June 7-30s 107⅛; July 7-30s, 107⅛; Gold, 140⅛; 5-30s, '67 108⅛.

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, report the market remains very quiet, both for cnde and refined. The unreasonable shipping demand for Europe ports is about over, and the *bulls* in petroleum, active again till next June or July. There is no disposition to operate for forward delivery. The stock of refined oil, in bond, are not large, but ample for present consumptive wants. There will not, probably, be much increase till a better margin is exhibited. Free oil is very dull, with the seasonable wants of consumption diminishing in an inverse ratio to the rise in prices. Sales on the week to-day at $2 30; delivered at Oil City $2 50@2 60. L.

PETROLEUM MARKETS.

BOSTON.

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Crude oil is in small stock, though there is considerable accumulation at the principal producing points where it is very cheap at this season of the year. There are but few buyers, however, as the cost of transportation to the Cleveland refineries, in most cases, exceeds the prime cost of the article itself.

We quote crude petroleum firm at 12@12½c ₱ gal, in bulk, and nominally 17@18c in bbls. Refined oil in bond is quiet but firm, with sales at 22@25c ₱ gal for Western. 26@28c for Boston, and 30c in cans and cases for shipment to Southern latitudes. Free oil is very moderate demand at 40@45c ₱ gal for Western, 43@45c for Boston, and 48c for Bowditch's kerosene. Naphta is in fair demand, with sales at a range of 17@32c ₱ gal, to suit gravity. Residuum is nominal at 8@7½@4 25 ₱ bbl.

NEW YORK.

The demand for crude, at present, says the *Shipping List*, but the supply available for immediate use is small, and holders are very firm; we quote at the close 11½@12c, in bulk; sales 750 bbls, in bulk, at 12c. 1,500 do at Jersey City, 10½c; 1,000 do at Meadville, 10½c; 1,000 do at Tarentum, 10½c; 1,000 do, 17c, b. o., balance of the month; 2,000 do, in bulk, March delivery, and 2,000 do April, both in transit, 12c. Refined is very dull, and the market closes weak. We quote in bbls W. sales 5,200 bbls S W at 24@25c, mostly 24½@25c; 5,000 do, early in Feb, 24½c; 5,000 do, latter part of month—May to October—at 26c, advancing 1c each month; 500 bbls S. W. for July at 29½c, buyer's option; 500 bbls S. W. for August at 30½c, buyer's option; 2,500 bbls S. W. for September to December, at an average of 31½c; 1,000 bbls S. W. on Friday at 21½@22c on the spot; 23c for March; 500 for April, at 26c; 500 for May, 27c; 1,000 do, nominal at 25c on the spot. Free oil ranges from 36 to 42c. Residuum is held at $4 50, with $2 25 bid. The receipts since the 1st inst. were 4,450 bbls crude, and 6,479 bbls refined. The exports during the week were 18,284 gallons crude, and 71,969 refined since January 1st, 1868, 2,794,472 gallons, against 1,365,569 gallons refined to same time last year.

New York Petroleum Market.

Crude is steady, with a fair demand; sales 1,750 bbls in bulk, at 11@11½c, closing at the inside price; 300 do, delivered to packages, 12c; and for March delivery, 2,000 do, in bulk, 11c. Refined in bond has been in fair request, in part for export, and the market has ruled steady, but closes quiet at 24½c for S. W.; sales 8,100 S. W. at 24½@24¾c; 400 do 24½c; 500 do, 24¾c; 1,000 do, 24½c; 500 do, 24¾c; 500 do, private terms; 600 cases S. W. in tin, 28c; 14,000 do in original packages, 30c. Free oil is dull and we hear of no sales. 300 bbls Gasoline sold at 18½c.

Received since January 1st—

1868.	1867.
bbls.73,168	bbls.36,308
Exports since January 1st—	
1868.	1867.
Crude, gals.	gals.
From New York.....4,584,357	1,871,641
Other Ports.....2,902,880	1,893,934
Total.....7,487,238	4,141,237
Same time 1866.....	5,701,418
1867.....	4,007,052

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, Feb. 19, 1868.

The week's trade thus far has been very limited in amount in nearly all branches of business, and prices without material change from those noted one week ago. There is very little doing in grain of any kind, and but a moderate business in flour, most of that to the local trade. The demand for bacon and lard has fallen off considerably, but prices remain firm at the late advance. Butter and eggs are scarce and quite high. Groceries are without change.

The receipts of grain at the Elevator from February 1st, 1868, to the 18th inst., foot up 252 cars, containing 91,343 bushels of all kinds of grain, but principally corn for transfer to Eastern cars.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Prices range from $4 50@5 50 ₱ bbl, as to quality. A chance barrel of extra may command a higher figure.

BEANS—Choice small white beans are scarce and quoted at $1 25@4 50 ₱ bushel.

BROOMS—We note sales of 123 dozen good No. 2 Western at $2 45 ₱ dozen.

BUTTER—Choice extra fresh butter sold at 38@42c ₱ lb, and prime at 35c ₱ lb. The receipts are small and demand fair.

EGGS—Fresh Eggs are selling at 35c ₱ dozen.

BACON, LARD, ETC—There is not as much doing as there was last week, and prices remain unchanged. The market during the greater portion of last week was excited and an advance in prices took place. We quote as follows: S. C. Hams 16½@17c; sugar cured 16½@17c; Bacon Sides, clear sides 14½c; dried beef 20c, and lard 14½@15c ₱ lb.

MESS PORK—We quote at $23 50 @ bbl.

LARD OIL—We quote extra No. 1 lard oil at $1 18, and No. 2 at 95c ₱ gallon.

LAKE HERRING—We note sales of 30 half barrels new Lake herring at $3 75 cash.

CHEESE—We quote Goshen at 18½@19c; Western Reserve at 15c, and Limburger at 15c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUITS—We quote peaches at 12@13c, and apples at 7@8c ₱ lb.

HOPS—We quote Bavarian at 35c, and Wisconsin at 6@c ₱ lb.

HAY—From country wagons loose timothy hay is selling at $18@21 ₱ ton.

SEED—There is a demand for flax seed at $2 35@2 40 ₱ bush. We quote clover seed at $8, and timothy seed at $3 ₱ bush.

POTATOES—Peachblow potatoes are quoted at $3 25@3 50 ₱ bbl, or $1 05@1 10 ₱ bush, as to quality.

HOMINY—Flint hominy sells at $6 50@7 00 ₱ bbl.

GRAIN—There is but little inquiry for grain of any kind and the market is very dull. Corn has been very little change noted in prices for some time past. We quote Oats from first hands at 64@66c, and from store at 67@68c ₱ bushel. Corn is nominal in price from first hands, but is offered very freely being transferred at the elevator to Eastern cars, and at once sent off. We quote in elevator at 96@$1 00, and from store at $1 05@1 10 ₱ bushel. Very little Rye in the market. We quote at $1 30@1 40 ₱ bushel. We hear that some is being held for higher figures. Barley is scarce and in demand at $2 00 ₱ bushel for Spring. There is nothing doing in Wheat, except the purchases made by millers for their mills in operation, and they are fairly supplied at $2 40@2 42 for red winter, and $2 50 ₱ bushel for white wheat.

CORN MEAL—We note sales from store at $1 05@1 10 ₱ bushel, as to quality.

RYE FLOUR—Choice rye flour commands $8 00 ₱ bbl.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote from store at $4 25@4 50 ₱ cwt.

FLOUR—Trade moderate, with but light receipts and stock of choice brands in store. We quote winter brands at $11 50@12 50; choice spring at $10 75@11 25, and medium at $10 00@10 50. We give below the prices of a variety of brands, as furnished by one of our leading houses:

T. C. Jenkins's prices, wholesale flour dealer, Cockerel Front, No. 23 Liberty street:	
Dayton Snowflake.....$	12 50
White Winter.....	11 75
Jenkins' Eureka Winter.....	11 50
Jenkins's Lilly and Favorite.....	11 25
Old Dominion.....	10 75
Sears's Best and Golden Sheaf.....	10 75@11 00
Hastings's.....	10 75
Excelsior.....	10 25
Greenwood.....	10 00
St. Andrew.....	9 00

Groceries.

Without any change in prices. We quote sales of—

COFFEE—Old Government Java, in bags, 37c; in mats, 36c; Laguayra, 26@27c; Rio, choice 27c; prime, 26c; good, 25c; roasting, 24@24c.

SUGAR—Porto Rico, 14@15c; Cuba, 13@14½c; Sugar House, 11½@12½c; Granulated, 18c; Powdered, 18c; Crushed, 18c; A Coffee, 17½c; B do, 16½c; extra C, 16½c; C 16; New Orleans 14@15½c.

MOLASSES—New Orleans Molasses, Porto Rico, 70@80c; Cuba, 60@70c; Demerara, 85c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00; fair to good, 90@95c.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90c@$1 10; Imperial and tea dust, do, $1 25@2 00; Japan, 80@$1 20; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 11@12½c; Rangoon, 10½@11½c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 25c; common 20@30c.

SPICES—Pimento, Cayenne Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 45c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 80@85c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 11½c; Babbett's, 11½c; Oakley's, 11c.

LYE—Concentrated Lye, $7 25.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 25c for full weight; moulds and candles, ₱ lb, 16c.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 95c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

COAL MARKETS.

PHILADELPHIA.

The market continues dull. We quote Locust Mountain lump and steamboat at $4; do broken $4; do prepared $4 25@4 50; Lehigh lump, steamboat and broken, $4; do prepared, $4 25@4 50; Schuylkill red ash lump, broken and steamboat, $4; do white ash lump, broken, $4 @$4 00; do egg and stove $4 25@4 50; chestnut $4 @0 00.

CINCINNATI.

No sales reported afloat and no change has been made in prices. Ohio river is selling at 10@c ₱ bush, and Pittsburgh at 22@24c ₱ bush, delivered to consumers.

LOUISVILLE.

No sales afloat. We quote retail sales of best Pittsburgh at 25c ₱ bush, and Pomeroy coal at $1 00 ₱ load delivered.

Seeds at Philadelphia.

Cloverseed has been dull, and prices are unsettled. About 600 bushels sold, in lots, at $7 75@8 50 ₱ bush for fair to prime. Timothy is without change in price or demand. $4 @4 25 ₱ bushel. Flaxseed in fair demand; sales are reported at $2 75@2 80 ₱ bushel.

The stock of flaxseed on the spot, to arrive, and loading at Chicago, February 1st, is 220,000 bags, against 250 bags, February 1st, 1867; the stock in New York is represented to be 24,000 bags outside of crushers' hands, and about the same quantity in Boston; consumption of English oil in 1867, 6,000 tons, equal to 200,000 bags seed; present stock of Portland oil, 300 tons, which is held out of the market, and there is none now coming forward, the present cost to import being about $1 2@$1 27, currency.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PIG IRON AND BLOOM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, February 21, 1868.

Pig Iron and Bloom Market.

There is less activity in the market for crude iron than was noted in our last report. A fair amount of business, however has been done, and as stocks of leading brands of standard forge descriptions continue light, prices are relatively firm.

Inferior grades of forge irons are accumulating and not meeting the requirements of forge workers generally, are depressed and sell at irregular rates.

In foundry irons but a light business has been done. Many of the city foundries are either entirely idle or doing but a very limited business.

The sales of the various descriptions were:

Anthracite—1,340 tons. Bituminous Coal smelted, 1,000 tons. Charcoal, 100 tons Allegheny Coke, 200 tons. Total, 2,640 tons. Blooms, 50 tons. Last week's sales were 2,432 tons of pig iron, and 30 tons Blooms. Increase this week 188 tons.

We are quoted the following sales:

Bituminous Coal Smelted from Lake Superior Ore.

100 tons close Grey Common forge.....$36 00—5 mos
100 " open do do do .....38 00—4 do
100 " mottled do do .....35 00—cash
500 " Mahoning valley.....36 50—5 do
60 " do do .....37 50—4 do
60 " do do .....35 00—cash
50 " do do .....36 00—5 mos

Anthracite.

50 tons Neutral forge.....private terms
100 tons No. 3 Red Short forge sold to have been.....$33 00—cash
200 tons white do .....39 25—mos
40 " gray do .....43 50—5mos

Allegheny Coke.

200 tons Allegheny.....$37 00—6mos

Charcoal.

100 tons No. 1 Hanging Rock.....$46 00—60 days

Blooms.

50 tons Juniata Blooms.....$90 00—cash

IRON AND NAILS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1868.

IRON.

Common Bar sizes.....	3½@4
Horse Shoe.....	5
Heavy Shoe.....	4½@5
Hoop and Light Band.....	5 @5½
Nail Plate.....	5½@6
Tragg's rods.....	5½
Hoffman's Best Refined.....	6 @6½
Hoffman's Anh.....	5½@6
Indigo Mesh.....	5½@6
Refined and Half Round.....	4½@4½
Boiler Iron.....	3½@3¾
Tank Iron.....	5

All sizes over 28 in. wide, ½c ₱ lb extra.

Flat Rails, punched and countersunk.....	4½@5
L. Rail, 12, 16, 20 and 25 lbs to the yard.....	4½@4¾
Rail Road Spikes.....	5½@6
Coal Screen Iron.....	5½@6 6½

Sheet Iron, 10 to 17.....	Amer'n. Charc'l Juniata.
" " 18 to 24.....	8¾ 7¾ 9¾
" " 25 to 26.....	9¾ 8¾ 10¾
" " 27.....	10¾ 9¾ 11¾

All sheets over 28 in. wide, ½c ₱ lb extra.

NAILS.

10d to 60d Nails, Pen-cutting and Brads.....	$5 25 3d time
8d and 9d do do do	5 50
6d and 7d do do do	5 75 3 in lining
4d and 5d do do do	6 00 Cut Spikes
3d do do do	6 50

Casing Nails—6d, @6 25; 8d, @6 00; 10d, @5 75; 12d, @5 75; 20d, @5 50.

Finishing Nails—6d, @6 75; 8d, @6 50; 10d, @6 25; 12d, @6 25; 20d, @6 00.

Barrel Nails—3 inch, @8 00; 1 inch, @7 25; 1¼ inch, @6 75; 1½ inch, @6 50; 2 inch, @6 25.

Tobacco Nails—6d, @8 00; 8d, @7 75; 10d, @7 50.

The above are the cash rates for cut nails in small lots, but in large lots iron can be purchased at 3½c, net cash, for common bar size, and nails at $6 00 @ keg for 10d to 60d, and 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, viz at 25c ₱ keg less than the card rate, net cash.

HEAVY HARDWARE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1868.

The following are the manufacturers' card prices of Lewis, Oliver & Phillips, who have reduced their rates very materially:

	Discount off Standard List.
Carriage bolts, full square necked.....	30
Forge bolts.....	30 and 10 and 5 net
Plow bolts.....	30 and 10 and 5 net
Machine and square head bolts.....	30 and 5 net
Hexagon head bolts, 1in. and under.....	30 and 5 net
Square and hexagon nuts, 1in. and under.....	½c ₱ lb off net
Washers.....	½c ₱ lb off net
Blank tire bolts, in lots.....	1in. diam. 12½c ₱ lb off net
of 6 tons or more.....	¾ and ⅞ do do 15c ₱ lb off net
	1 to 1¼ do do 17½c ₱ lb off net
Skein bolts, in bulk, in lots.....	½ to 1in diam. 15c ₱ lb net
of 6 kegs or more.....	⅝ to 1in diam. 17½c ₱ lb net
	¾ to 1in diam. 20c ₱ lb net
Coach and lag screws, in bulk, in lots of 5 tons or more.....	½ to 1in diam 12½c ₱ lb over above
	¾ to 1in diam 12½c ₱ lb net
	⅞ to 1in diam 15c ₱ lb net
	1 to 1in diam 17½c ₱ lb net
Screw hook & eye hinges.....	30 and 10 and 5 net
Screw and strap hinges 8 to 10.....	6 12 in long, 15c ₱ lb net
Lots of 10 ₱ ton or more 14 to 36.....	4 to 6 in long, 15c ₱ lb net
Wagon box strap bolts, in lots of 500 pounds or more.....	30 and 10 and 5 net
Ferrules.....	50 and 10 and 5 net
Blind bolts.....	$4 00 per doz net
Thimble skeins.....	30 and 10 and 5 net
Hollow bolts at a small advance over price of bar iron.	Dis. off list. net

WROUGHT IRON WELDED TUBES.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1868.

The following is the Manufacturers' Price List, subject to the customary discount:

Nominal Inside Diam.	Price, Per Ft.	Price, Galv'd. Inside Diam. Per Ft.
⅛ inch gas pipe	7	⅛ inch gas pipe 10
¼ do	7	¼ do 12
⅜ do	10	⅜ do 14
½ do	13	½ do 18
¾ do	15	¾ do 22
1 do	22	1 do 30
1¼ do	28	1¼ do 40
1½ do	32	1½ do 45
2 do	45	2 do 60
2½ do	60	2½ do 80
3 do	80	3 do 1 10
3½ do	1 00	3½ do 1 40
4 do	1 20	4 do 1 60
4½ do	1 40	4½ do 1 80
5 do	1 60	5 do 2 00
6 do	2 00	6 do 2 60

STEEL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1868.

The following are the current rates:

Best quality refined tool steel.....	18c
Machinery steel.....	12c
Spring cast steel.....	18c
German spring steel.....	11½@12c
Blister steel.....	11½@12c
German plow steel.....	18c

PRICE LIST OF TOOLS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1868.

The following is the Card Price List of Tools. A:

One set complete 2½ inch joint and ...on bar, $350.
One set complete 2 inch joint and ...on bar, $250.
One set complete 2 inch joint and ...on bar, $200.
...engraved grain, $2 00 extra. Valve Sockets, $30. Hand Wrench, solid jaw, $6 00; Ullman straps, $3 00.
Anvils, per pound, 15c.

IRON.

NEW YORK.

Metals generally, influenced by the anticipated improvement in trade and easiness of money, are higher, with a tendency, says the *Iron Age* report, to still further advance. Usually in the middle of February the spring trade opens; but this year up to the time trade has been quiet. This is considered a fair indication of the year's trade.

American Pig Iron.—During the past ten days, some few contracts have been made at $35 for one extra brand, at $34 for extra, and $33 for common, but are without any foundation in fact. Agreements have been made to purchase certain brands of pig iron, and to sell the same at a profit, but to enforce pig irons some sales for consumption have been made and delivered, but all were lots of pig iron held large stocks of that and of manufactured material; but, considered on an active market, as any thing like ordinary supply will be, they are quite as heavily as last season. For rails in Pennsylvania and Ohio, contracts for 50,000 tons have been made, stating somewhat that the heavy stocks in the interior of that State, but in which the rail mills are doubtless. In the Eastern States buyers generally have been shy; in most of the foundries business is at a standstill, with nothing doing, and little likely to be doing, and many are without orders or work at present. Generally speaking, the feeling is not depressed, and we note at present a tendency to greater steadiness in prices. Some of the rail mills have, for immediate delivery, taken in Pennsylvania, which is to be by the men. Hardware manufacturers are doing very little.

Scotch Pig Iron—Yard lots are selling at $19@$12 ₱ ton. Of arrivals have been small and prices are very firm.

Scrap Iron—The demand improving, prices are firmer, and the market closes steadily at $30@$31 for open quotations.

Old Rails—The demand is better demand at improved prices, with several transactions equal to $40@41 in New York.

Rails—The mills are fairly supplied with orders, and prices are fully maintained. Collateral bonds and security very good, and the market is very favorable, prevent some large transactions on contract, but we hear of no sales actually made.

Bar Iron—Unlisted. Some Pennsylvania mills have reduced prices to cent., causing a strike among puddlers; but the helpers, it is said, will act as puddlers, the latter threaten violence. The helpers are paid by the day, and by a sliding scale, and up to $4 with properly appointed referees.

Iron Ore—Foreign and domestic sales have advanced of the price to 23½@24c. The demand from consumption is improving.

Spelter—The transactions have been quite large. Though nearly the whole stock (estimated at 500 tons) has changed hands, prices now run 6¾@6¾c, gold, with transactions at the latter price.

Tin—Straits, 24@24½c, gold; English, 23½@24c, gold; Banca, 26@26½c.

Tin plates—1 C charcoal tin, $11 75@12 50.

Antimony—10¼@11c, gold. Markets have been active, but on the advance in price markets are more quiet.

Lead—Holders firm at 6½@6¾c, gold.

Tin—Straits, 24@24½c, gold; English, 23½@24c, gold; Banca, 26@26½c.

Tin plates—1 C charcoal tin, $11 75@12 50.

Antimony—10¼@11c, gold. Markets have been active, but on the advance in price markets are more quiet.

Nickel—$1 30@1 75, gold.

Bismuth—$2@2 25, currency.

Quicksilver—$65@70, currency.

IRONTON, OHIO.

No activity is manifested as yet, says the *Register*, in the metal market. No transactions of any importance have occurred during the week, and prices run slightly lower than in our previous reports. We quote this week:

Bills, for blast, cash..... $30@40
Foundry, hot blast..... 35@40
Cold blast..... 50@60

The receipts for the week amounted to 700 tons; shipments very light.

Bar continues dull at 3½@4½c. The Lawrence rolling mill is running, and it is thought that the Ironton mill will be in operation soon.

Iron at Boston.

The market for pig iron is firm, with a better disposition on the part of buyers to take hold. The stocks of foreign have been reduced to small compass, and, with very little doing in the way of sales, holders of choice brands are asking and obtaining a little advance. The increased cost of transportation, at the present high price of gold is, as well as the probable remission of tax upon the home product, preventing orders from going abroad to any extent. Domestic pig is in better demand at previous rates, and large consumers and dealers are placing orders for future delivery, wherever they are able to do so on favorable terms. Bar iron continues dull and also improving, and manufacturers are taking good-sized lots.

Manufactured iron of some descriptions, is a shade easier. Bar iron, hard ware is beginning to move, and English bar and sheet are selling from one to a shade higher rates.

Steel is very dull, with sales of No. 1, in small lots from yard, at $16@18 ₱ ton for the various grades. American is firm and unchanged with sales of retail lots at 18@20c ₱ lb. This is considered a fair indication of the year's trade.

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3 do	80	3 do 1 10
3½ do	1 00	3½ do 1 40
4 do	1 20	4 do 1 60
4½ do	1 40	4½ do 1 80
5 do	1 60	5 do 2 00
6 do	2 00	6 do 2 60

STEEL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COM

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
Eighths of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

THE FREE RAILROAD QUESTION AT HARRISBURG.

What the friends of a Free Railroad Law want is a statute that will permit the building of roads, without unnecessary restrictions. The bill brought forward by Mr. JENKS, in the House, and which has passed that body, is, we believe, generally satisfactory to them. In the Senate another bill has been substituted. The two differ in two important particulars. The House bill provides for a subscription of four thousand dollars a mile, before the company can commence operations; and further, that whenever a company find it necessary to borrow money they may issue bonds to the amount of their subscriptions. The Senate substitute requires ten thousand dollars a mile, and limits the amount of bonds to twenty thousand dollars a mile. Under this bill railroad men say roads would be seldom if ever built. Everybody knows that it is with money raised on bonds, and not by cash subscriptions, that roads are built; and companies should be left free to issue bonds to the amount of the subscriptions, and not restricted to twenty thousand dollars or any other particular amount per mile. Of course the subscriptions would have to be increased in order to increase the amount of bonds. This is far more vital than any provision in regard to the amount of subscription, and should be insisted on by the friends of the Free Law.

Our correspondent speaks of consent having been given by some one, speaking for the supporters of the free principle, to have the Senate bill substituted for the one passed by the House. No one had the right thus to speak, and we are satisfied that no one did pretend so to speak, except he was in the interest of the Pennsylvania Company, from whom all the opposition comes. We are satisfied that the very least that the friends of the Free Railroad bill ought to consent to—and this only as the alternative for nothing at all—is ten thousand dollars a mile, with ten per cent. paid up, and the right to issue bonds to the amount of the stock subscription, with the usual ten per cent paid. We advise no compromise—we are opposed to any—but if there must be one, this is the very least that should be thought of.

ITALY AND AMERICA.

By the Atlantic Cable of Monday mention was made of a great dinner given at Florence in honor of Admiral FARRAGUT. At the banquet, something having been said regarding the alliance between Italy and America, a former Secretary of Marine Affairs said "a country found by Columbus, baptized by Vespucci, and celebrated by Botta, was entirely natural."

Every schoolboy knows that COLUMBUS was an Italian of Genoa, and AMERIGO VESPUCCI is almost as well known to have been a native of the same country, born in Florence. America ought to have been called Columbia after its discoverer. Geographers, however, who lived sometime after the great discoverer's death, were led to give the name of VESPUCCI to the continent which they inferred from his charts and voyages that he had first visited. Not many years ago a person who claimed to be a descendant of the Florentine navigator, petitioned Congress for a large sum of money in recognition of her ancestors merits and services. Some readers may not be acquainted with the name of BOTTA, who is said to have "celebrated" America. He was a native of Piedmont, who wrote a history of the American Revolution in very choice Italian. Living in Paris and in daily intercourse with LAFAYETTE, he was urged to undertake the work. Several Frenchmen who had served in America lent him books, pamphlets, maps and also aided him with oral communications, and the large libraries of Paris were at his service. His history was published at Paris about 1809, and was soon reprinted in Italy, where it has since gone through many editions, and has done much in promotion of the cause of freedom. Some of the statements received by the author from French officers who had served under Washington, contained information at once valuable and new to those who knew that portion of our history only from book's. BOTTA'S history is marred by the speeches which, in imitation of the ancients, are ascribed to the principal characters. It used to be much read in this country in a translation by Mr. OTIS, of Boston.

UNTIMELY LAMENTATIONS.

The Hon. THADDEUS STEVENS is said to be in bitter lamentation on account of the latest and no doubt the final defeat of impeachment as a party measure. The country has many reasons for being grateful to Mr. STEVENS for his courageousness and manifold services in the work of reconstruction; but no considerable body of the people, certainly not among the Republicans, agree in denouncing as treacherous to principle or unwise in policy, the decision against pursuing impeachment. We believe Mr. STEVENS, and all others who agree with him, make a mistake in pushing forward from one extreme measure to another, as the only cure for our political ills. As we interpret public opinion, there exists no such wish or tendency, but rather a distrust of the wisdom of such a treatment of the questions of great public concern as Mr. STEVENS is so much disposed to adopt. Great progress has been made in principles; and in the nature of things time is required for trial and solidification. An occasional pause, besides being a natural demand, is a sure means of gaining strength for future effort and attaining ultimate success. To resist this natural demand is never wise, and it would be in no aspect of the present case. Pausing does not necessarily mean faltering; but new vigor, rather, for a fresh start. If the people manifest a desire for a leadership and a policy marked for more moderation than Mr. STEVENS is wont to show, he should not be surprised. That such a desire is strong and general, he himself must be persuaded, and no one who discerns well the laws and the motives which relate to human action will be disposed to quarrel with the fact, but feel himself instructed by the "signs of the times." We might refer Mr. STEVENS to the great confidence reposed in Gen. GRANT, whereby virtually he has become the Presidential nominee of the Republican party, and remind him that this is on account of his moderation and firmness of character—a something which convinces the country that with Gen. GRANT at the head of the Government there will be steadiness and good sense, without extremes of any kind. The country pants for repose, and it is for this reason there has been this general turning to General GRANT. The decision to pursue no further, under present circumstances, the impeachment project, was the recognition of this feeling; and Mr. STEVENS would strengthen himself and increase his usefulness, were he also to recognize what, to most of others, is so clear and instructive. And this disrelish of extremes—this desire for moderation and practical action—embraces not only the question of restoration, but in a particular sense the financial situation of the country. Congress would do well to throw as much vigor as is possible into its treatment of the question. That perfect wisdom will be attained, or that anything lastingly beneficial can be reached in a day, no one supposes. That there exists in Congress an anxiety and a disposition corresponding to the feeling prevailing among the people, is fully evident; and it is on this fact that we may safely build strong hopes.

KENTUCKY is Democratic to the backbone, and is relied on to give an almost countless majority for the Democratic nominee, whoever he happens to be. The resignation of Mr. GUTHRIE creates a vacancy in the United States Senate. It is a striking commentary on the political soundness of the State and the "natural affinities" of the Democratic party, that Kentucky is restrained from electing to the United States Senate either JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE or the rebel General BUCKNER by the knowledge that neither would be admitted to seats in that body. Democratic ascendency only is needed to remove the disabilities from these and similar patriots and bring them back to power.

DISREGARD OF HUMAN LIFE.

"Man is a strange animal" is the sentence passed upon his kind by a man who, in his own character and history, exemplified the truth of the sentiment in a very striking and unmistakable manner. Taking no notice, however, of the eccentricities and inconsistencies of the remarkable person alluded to, and thinking of the words just quoted from him, in their general illustration and application, how very strange on reflection seem the different ways in which death is regarded by different people. There is surely a vast interval between the view expressed in the words so often heard from the pulpit, "death the king of terrors," and the view expressed in the words of SCHILLER, "death cannot be an evil, since it is universal." In every human being, not utterly prostrated by disease, or stupefied by drugs, there is a physical shrinking from the reality and even from the thought of death as an agony, or as a dissolution of the animal frame—but when the time arrives, the fortitude of the most sensitive is usually found equal to the hour, and nearly all die with decency, however they may have lived. The Chinaman, hard and material in his whole constitution, whatever might be his religious views, would probably anticipate and meet death with stoicism. The Hindoo, delicate in organization and with a physique nourished on light food and tempered by a burning sun, usually dies easily. There is nothing in its manner to make the same fate dreaded in prospect by survivors. The Anglo-Saxon with his firmly constituted body compact of vital energy and wiry nerves, carries within him the elements of a hard and painful death as well as of a glowing, vigorous and painful life. The moral aspect which death presents to those named, and to all men, seems much to depend on the moral and religious ideas with which teaching and tradition happen to have made them familiar. Of course natural constitution and temperament affect the reception and influence of these ideas, but are not able to prevent their general effect from being essentially the same on whole nations and on all races fully brought under their operation. The religion of BUDDHA qualifies one-third of the human kind, embracing the most unlike races, to look with almost absolute indifference on death with *nirwana* or annihilation as its immediate consequence.

The influence of Christianity in the West, by raising the general view in regard to the responsibilities and dignity of life, is also seen in enhancing the solemnity of death, apart altogether from the terrible physical images and prospective tortures which have become associated in many minds with the future state of those unworthy of the Paradise destined for others of the departed. The proper, legitimate and undoubted result of Christian teaching and Christian living has been to produce in all Christian nations a general recognition of the sanctity of human life—a general impression of the awfulness of natural dissolution, and a general conviction that there is no crime known to human law-givers higher, or more worthy of punishment, than the violent or the insidious acceleration of its coming.

And yet almost every day and in whatever direction we look so many facts present themselves really, or apparently inconsistent with any such prevalent impression and conviction that one is almost compelled to doubt its reality. The once current belief about the suicide of the scorpion has been exploded by careful observation. Man is the only animal that commits self-destruction. This sin, though probably not forbidden by the sixth commandment, as some suppose, is admitted to be a crime, and yet by a two-fold inconsistency, voluntary self-slaughter is perhaps more common in Christendom than in any portion of heathendom. Much time and much space of paper would be required merely to specify the many ways in which the crime is committed. Omitting mention of all others, what multitudes annually perish from the effects of reckless eating. In old times it used to be said that Heaven sends acute diseases and that men bring chronic diseases on themselves. Among the "*Pensees diverses*" of MONTESQUIE it stands written as the result of his observation that "supper kills one-half the Parisians and dinner kills the other half." If this remark was true in regard to a French city, how applicable must it be to one of ours? As a matter of fact every physician will say that a large proportion of our chronic maladies are the products of injudicious indulgence of the palate. Even where no dinners or suppers deadly in richness and variety of food and dainties have been enjoyed, ill-cooked or ill-chosen diet has been quite as injurious.

It seems almost puerile, or even childish in its futility, to point to our railroad accidents as evidence of our want of appreciation of the sanctity of human life. It would be neither philosophical nor Christian to denounce Vesuvius, or to send up a remonstrance against mildew and tornadoes. Plagues and earthquakes are in the order of nature. Why may not these terrible calamities, which are so soon forgotten and so quickly succeeded by others of the same kind, be in the order of nature too? It is vain to say that they are unavoidable. Doubtless they can be prevented, and the inventive genius which has covered the land with telegraph wires and iron-rails, if stimulated by an adequate thought of the sacredness of human life, would never have permitted two accidents of the sort to occur.

To the same cause is to be referred the disregard of sanitary considerations so obvious in the neglect to provide sufficient sewage in our cities and villages. Certainly sensitiveness to the value and sanctity of life would not be able to tolerate for six months the accumulation of impurities by which the air of Pittsburgh is defiled, and some of its streets rendered almost impassable at times. Something has recently been done and more is now doing to remedy these evils, but much still remains to be attained to.

We can at present mention only one other matter at once illustrative of our subject and practically interesting and important. About a year ago one of our well known physicians, as chairman of a committee appointed by the Allegheny County Medical Society, prepared and published a report on our water supply. Few who read that very able paper can have forgotten the horrible account it gave of the sort of water we are under the necessity of drinking during a considerable portion of the year. In view of the facts presented in Dr. MCDONALD'S report the need of new arrangements for water supply seemed most urgent and clamorous. Such, however, is our indifference to health and consequently to life, that nothing has been done to remedy the evils therein described.

THE election in Arkansas to decide on the new Constitution, will take place on the 13th of next month. It is to be hoped that Congress will, before that time, amend the law by substituting a majority of all the votes cast for all the votes registered. As it stands now the law is subversive of the only correct principle in popular elections which recognizes the supremacy of the majority.

AT the regular meeting of the Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, held in Baltimore on Wednesday, Mr. GARRETT, the President, read an address, a large part of which related to the Connellsville road. It was as full and explicit as could be desired, and it dispels all doubt as to the immediate undertaking and early completion of that road.

FELIX BELLY—MR. SEWARD'S LAND BUSINESS.

We were told by the Atlantic Cable Thursday that "FELIX BELLY, the well known French railroad contractor of Central America, has been sentenced to pay a heavy fine for publishing a slanderous article against the Government of Nicaragua."

M. BELLY'S name must be familiar to many of our readers. About the beginning of our late civil war, his arrival in New York from France *en route* for Mexico or Central America was duly announced in the newspapers as a matter of some significance. He was strongly suspected to be a confidential agent of the French Emperor. As such he had been for some time actively engaged in Central America in connection with the great *canal* project. Those able to see a little way beneath the surface of things, were well assured that he had been and was then employed in counteracting United States influence in that region for the advantage of France.

The sight of his name in the Atlantic telegram reminded us of having read at the time of its appearance a long and rather entertaining account of his manifold and exciting labors on the Isthmus, written by himself. It was published in the *Revue des deux Mondes*, of the 15th of July, 1860. Turning to the Review mentioned, and glancing over the pages of M. F. BELLY'S article, our attention was arrested by two or three passages, which we had marked at the time of first reading them, and which, in view of events since taken place, are interesting at the present time. We may premise that in his narrative, M. BELLY—writing in 1860—appears to write with entire candor in regard to certain matters about which reticence and a degree of reserve would have seemed both decorous and expedient, if he had written his story in 1850. In 1860, affairs in the great Republic of the North had arrived at such a condition, that neither courtesy, nor policy imposed much restraint upon the agents of the European powers who had been scheming and striving for our destruction. We do not purpose, however, to give any analysis, or outline of the narrative, but merely to quote a few sentences from it. It is entitled "The Question of the American Isthmus—An Episode in the History of our Time." M. BELLY left Southampton, on board an English steamer, on the 17th of February, 1858. Having described his voyage and mentioned his landing at San Juan, he says:

"A quarter of an hour afterwards the whole town knew that the most devoted defender of Central American independence had just disembarked. Free course was given to conjecture, and circumstance countenanced the most erroneous suppositions. To put an end to these, I was obliged to assume an entirely inoffensive *rôle*. I was a mere explorer, an inquirer, a naturalist. Interested in new countries, desirous of enriching science by collections or discoveries, I interested myself in all the singularities of the place. I interrogated the professional men. I even laid the foundation of a museum, which, besides, offered me the opportunity of making known to France a country of which it knew almost nothing. This harmless *rôle* succeeded as well as the state of the popular mind here permitted, and especially quite removed away attention from the question of the canal."

On the route to San Juan M. BELLY touched at St. Thomas, and was greatly surprised and delighted with the picturesque scene presented by the island and the town. He writes:

"The fort contained a garrison of one hundred and fifty soldiers, commanded by a Captain; a force more than sufficient to guard a possession which no one covets, because all the world derives advantage from it."

To this remark he appends the following note:

"This is true as to Europe, but not as to the North Americans—*who wish to have a foot everywhere, and who, therefore, are desirous of having a point of mark*—at the same time they were seeking to take the bay of Samana from the Dominican Republic. The alarm sounded by the English press has ruined the former project; but the second—that relative to Samana—may likely be in course of execution."

Let the reader recollect that this was published in Paris in July, 1860. We thus see that both those who praise and those who blame Mr. SEWARD for his commercial transactions in earthquakes, speak in ignorance, or in forgetfulness of the past. It seems that before July, 1860, our government—perhaps through Mr. CASS, Mr. BUCHANAN'S Secretary of State—attempted to acquire Saint Thomas from Denmark, and that the plan was frustrated by the clamor of the European press. Mr. SEWARD renewing the attempt under more favorable circumstances, got the island without either alarm sounded or protest made by foreign powers—another evidence of the prestige gained by our recent war. Perhaps a careful examination of the archives at Washington would show that as little either of censure or applause is due the present Secretary for the idea of buying Alaska. That bargain, also, may have been suggested by the traditions of the State Department.

M. BELLY has much to say about the then recently founded and rising town of Aspinwall. We quote only a few lines in regard to what may be called the moral, or the personal aspects of the place at the time of his visit. The Frenchman's notion of American character seems to have been formed upon an acquaintance with certain representatives of us from the Southwest. He says:

"In order to be faithful to historical truth, I ought to add that we there met with the *elite* of the Filibuster empire, which I estimate at a fourth for events. Colonel Kinney was there spending his days, seated under a gallery which showed cool breezes from the sea, and perhaps already concerting the ridiculous affray which was to take place later at Grey-Town. Walker frequently made his appearance, always reserved and impenetrable. It was at Aspinwall he refused for a week after his arrest by Commodore Paulding, in this too well known adventure. I had never been able to see anything but one of those systematic deteriorers for whom human life and all the rights which flow from that first right, disappear before a thirst for gold. Walker showed this character at Aspinwall, and since confirmed on the theater of his exploits has not modified this first impression. His daily conversation, like his public address, disclosed the secret of this character in the cold and metallic brilliance of his look, and even when they were animated by contradiction, in our country we must go back to Sallust to find an embodiment, idealized and magnified however, of this implacable type of character. In the distant brass in the stirring portion of the nation, and especially in the natives of the soil, we may say that the absence of heart and sensibility is a national vice. In this particular there is a gulf between the old societies of Europe and this new, and the intellectual and moral traditions to whom even religion is merely a hypocritical formalism which does not prohibit the roasting of a slave over a slow fire, but prescribes as a crime all inusical entertainment on Sunday. Hardly three months after, a poor colporter was thus burnt for having distributed religious tracts against slavery. Then, when religions appear for some time to have been dominated by a single and incessant preoccupation, that is indulgence of an ambition without limits, and an avarice without counterpoise. Their physiognomy bears the stamp, often sickly, of this consuming mental tension, which, besides, reveals an energetic spirit. Even among children it often takes the impress and buoyancy appropriate to their age, substituting a serious and remote cupidity, for the early instincts of delicacy as to the decencies of social life. These are the people to whom the proclamation of the pretended Monroe Doctrine, that 'America belongs to the Americans,' has given over in advance to the most powerful, the most unscrupulous in the world!' Unfortunately it is easy to foresee the effect of such a principle among people so inclined to apply it."

Some years ago, if we rightly remember, it was denied either officially, or unofficially, that M. BELLY, in the Central American operations, bore any political character. It was alleged that he represented simply a monied interest in his construction of *the canal*. However this may have been, he was brought into frequent relations with the Central American governments, and he made no secret that the interests of France would be promoted by the exclusion of North Americans from any ascendency in that part of the world. Now that he has been deemed worthy of prosecution and punishment for libelling a Central American government, there is some—if only a little—gratification of curiosity in reading an authentic word from himself on the subjects directly or indirectly connected with his Central American enterprises. His opinion of ourselves also, though not complimentary, is worth knowing.

THE Constitution of Alabama failed of being ratified by about five thousand votes. In three counties the polls were not open at all, and in two others the rebels destroyed the ballot box—wherein, it is presumed, they manifested what innocent sufferers they are. In view of these things Gen. MEADE will, or has already ordered a new election, so that where the people were denied the opportunity of voting, they will have it. The constitution, it is believed, will yet be ratified.

CONSIDERABLE is said in Congress and rumored outside, about impeaching the President, in regard to which we hope there is more sound than substance. In our judgment the country can get along better with Mr. JOHNSON than without him if he is impeached out. We hope Congress—the Republican part of it at least—will address themselves to the questions of currency and revenue first and let Mr. JOHNSON slide.

THE New York *Herald*, after surveying the political horizon and weighing all the chances, comes to the conclusion that Gen. GRANT will inevitably be the next President. Of his capacity it says:

"Finally, in his brief administration of the War Department General Grant has shown that the mind equal to the most effective combination of a million of men in the field is competent to shape the policy of half a dozen men in the Cabinet."

THE JAPANESE AND THEIR ASIATIC OPPOSITES.

The Philadelphia *North American* referring to certain Japanese boys receiving instruction in American schools, says: "We understand that the Japanese in all of the schools excel in the exact sciences, and that they manifest a great taste for machinery; matters that will be important when, in a short time, those students become teachers and Governors among their countrymen."

The Japanese are a people almost unique among the nations of Asia, and perhaps from no other Asiatic people do they differ more widely than from the Hindoos. The Japanese are a very practical people. They are much more under the influence of reason than of the imagination. They have for centuries striven to acquire dominion over the material world, have gained considerable mastery of it, and are ever ready to enter and subdue any fresh region to which an opening happens to be made. They have poetry—but it is not marked by strong imagination. The Hindoos owe their theology to an imagination so powerful as to disdain the limits of space and time. It shows its vigor in annihilating this sublunary world and in creating others infinite in extent and in duration. "Existence sees it spurn her bounded reign and panting time toils after it in vain." The Hindoo disdains the material world about him, and the triumphs over it achieved by the men of the West seem to him of paltry worth. He asks—what is the use of them? "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long." The more he wants and the more he values worldly possessions the lower he sinks in the estimate of the truly good and great. What, he asks, are the mightiest and most astounding achievements of Anglo-Saxon inventive genius compared with the performances of the holy *Jogi* who by abstinence and bodily austerities has annihilated his own passions—who by meditation has attained to union with Deity—and who has fire enough within him to burn up all the sin in the world? Nor do the books of the Christian West seem to him more worthy of admiration, or reverence. There is a literature which he reverences, the huge poems, commentaries, and treatises on law, logic and grammar, written in the ancient language of his country. That ancient langauge—called Sanscrit—was described by Sir WILLIAM JONES, who had studied it, as being "of a wonderful structure; more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either." In this language there is still extant a treatise on grammar, written by PANINI, which is pronounced by the philologists of Germany the most profound and philosophical work of the kind ever given to the world. In a Sanscrit work entitled *Surya Sidhanta*, composed not later than A. D. 800, there is a system of trigonometry, not only far superior to anything known to the Greeks, but containing theorems unknown in Europe before the sixteenth century. The ancient Hindoos were also acquainted with several properties of the circle, which were first discovered in Europe not three hundred years since. In arithmetic, the same ancient people invented the decimal notation seventeen hundred years ago. ARYA BHATTA, the first great Hindoo algebraist, probably lived in the fourth century of our era, and was, therefore, a contemporary of DIOPHANTUS, who first wrote on algebra in Greek. Mathematicians admit that the Hindoo was greatly superior to the Greek writer. He knew how to resolve equations involving several unknown quantities, and seems to have barely missed some of the most important discoveries of modern European algebraists. It is besides certain that ARYA BHATTA must have found the science in an advanced state when he began his studies. But we intended to refer only to the young Hindoos of to-day. They, too, like the Japanese, are gifted with wonderful aptitude for the acquisition of the exact sciences. We have heard Cambridge men who had taken high degrees at their university and were employed as professors in the government colleges in India, say that in every class there were usually several young men capable of conquering a distinguished place among the wranglers. In mathematical invention, however, they are deficient. Nor do they take pleasure in trying to apply their knowledge of western science and of the material world to the improvement of the arts of life among themselves. It is quite unlikely that under the most favorable circumstances a Hindoo would be able, or would even attempt to produce a steam-engine upon a model furnished him. The constructive faculty and even the faculty of imitation in the arts seem very feeble in the present generation of Indians. For many years some rather good paintings by ZAFANI, who spent a part of his life in Hindostan, have been in the country. Few attempts have been to imitate them, and these few have been failures. At Delhi there has long existed a class of artists who paint miniatures on ivory, but their performances are not admirable.

In the mission and government schools the young Hindoo is impelled to study by emulation, by the desire to stand well with his teacher, and by the pleasure of intellectual excitement. All these incentives are apt to grow weak with maturity of years, the deadening influence of his religion soon begins to tell upon him if he retains his faith in spite of western knowledge, and the apathy produced by the climate generally destroys all love of study for its own sake. The bright, successful and ambitious student more frequently than in any other country becomes the listless, lazy pococurante man. "The sweet doing of nothing" is an Italian saying; the Hindoos also find it very sweet to do nothing.

MR. JOHNSON, of the White House, has had another of his little games foiled, and this time by General SHERMAN, of whom he undertook to make an instrument, as he did of GRANT. The plan was, by creating by Executive order a new Department, embracing Washington, with General SHERMAN in command of it, to overslaugh General GRANT. The pen that created the Department, nominated General SHERMAN to be Brevet Lieutenant General. But so little was SHERMAN pleased with the arrangement, that he telegraphed from the West, expressing the wish that the Senate should not confirm the nomination, and that rather than serve in Washington, he would resign from the army. General SHERMAN would cut his right hand off before he would be the instrument of the President, or any one, to degrade General GRANT; and perceiving that such was the purpose of Mr. JOHNSON, he framed his dispatch so as to leave nothing to be said. Congress, however, will prevent further trouble in this direction, by passing a law regulating the creation of military departments. Mr. JOHNSON has fully determined on degrading General GRANT. What his next attempt will be, remains to be seen.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York *Commercial*, referring to the GRANT-JOHNSON correspondence says:

Mr. Seward quietly tells the whole story, and shows that there was a simple misunderstanding as to whether the General should call at the White House again on Monday, neither he nor the President anticipating on the saturday previous that there would be any immediate action by the Senate.

Had other gentlemen acted with the same conciliatory spirit as the Secretary of State has manifested, this "correspondence" would not have taken place.

It should be remembered that Mr. JOHNSON flooded the country with statements, made from the White House, through correspondents—particularly the correspondent of the *World*—designed to damage General GRANT. It was this fact that led to the correspondence, and General GRANT would have been wanting in spirit had he said a single word less than he did.

GOOD news from New Hampshire! MONTGOMERY BLAIR has gone there to stump for the Democrats. Defeat has ever followed his entrance into the field, and as if to make the event sure, HENRY CLAY DEAN has been given a show in the campaign. On the Republican side General SICKLES, General COCHRAN and several Congressional orators are speaking. The election takes place on the 10th of March. The Republicans, who are conducting the canvass under the banner of GRANT, do not for a moment doubt that victory awaits them.

THE OIL TRADE—PITTSBURGH AND CLEVELAND.

The Cleveland *Herald* refers to what it calls "discrimination by the Pennsylvania Railroad against Pittsburgh in the rates of crude oil," and remarks thereon as follows:

The two points of interest to us brought out by this controversy are, the great benefit accruing to this city from the construction of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, our chief oil trade being due to this enterprise, and the superiority enjoyed by Cleveland over Pittsburgh as a distributing point. An Cleveland oil refiner requires less capital than his Pittsburgh competitor; he can get his crude oil cheaper, and he can ship it East by choice of routes at less cost and with greater dispatch. It is no wonder that Cleveland has obtained the white hand of Pittsburgh in this important trade, and that whilst the hour in which Pittsburgh lies can be located afar off by its superincumbent smoke-cloud, the traveler to Cleveland is yearly less in danger of missing his way if he possess a nose of ordinary keenness.

We do not understand that our refiners have any disposition to disguise the fact that cheaper transportation is necessary to the retention of the oil business here. There is no way to obtain this but through railroad competition. The probable early opening of the Connellsville road and connection with Baltimore encourages the hope of such rates as will enable Pittsburgh to retain and even increase its oil trade. No one wishes to see the relations of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia broken off or in any way disturbed, but it is impossible that this or any trade whatever which is mutually profitable to the two cities, should continue so long as the Pennsylvania Railroad Company discriminates against it, or in the language of one of the principal managers, "don't care whether they carry a barrel of oil or not." There are two ways of obtaining justice and relief, if the Pennsylvania Company will not accord it. One is by a Free Railroad Law, whereby another through connection to Philadelphia can be formed; the other is by the Connellsville road to Baltimore. From present appearances, the Pennsylvania Company having stalked into the State capital and found an obedient majority of the Senate there, very little prospect exists of a Free Law. Happily, however, not so in the other direction. The power of the Monopoly, which for a time bound and threatened to strangle entirely the Connellsville Road, has been broken. We are simply compelled to look away from our own State and Philadelphia, to Baltimore. Since it is from Philadelphia, in the Legislature, that the Free Law receives the deadliest blow, we hope that city will view the prospect—not as to oil alone, but trade in general—with as much satisfaction as she can.

Railroad Enterprise.

Evidences of the importance of a liberal free railroad law are almost daily being manifested in new railway projects, and if anything were wanting to inspire Senators to do their duty by the people of the State, the evidences we refer to would supply it. Since the restoration of the Connellsville Railroad charter, the people in the southern counties are agitating the project of a through route from Tidewater to the west. Already the influential citizens of Somerset have commenced canvassing for the proposed branch road from Somerset borough to a connection with the Connellsville road, and a similar project is talked of in Bedford county. Among the latest and most important projects is that of a new line which is to start at Oxford, in Chester county, or at some point on the Oxford and West Chester road. Running through the southern end of Lancaster county, it crosses the Susquehanna at Peach Bottom, said to be the best crossing for the purpose on the river. After passing through York county, it intersects with the Gettysburg road, and follows a due west course parallel to the State line and through the counties of Adams and Franklin to Connellsville. The citizens and capitalists of York county held a meeting on Friday evening to discuss the enterprise and take steps for the consummation. It is claimed that the portion of route upon the line mentioned runs through one coal regions of the western and the great iron sections of the center counties, while the slate quarries of York and Lancaster counties, the best in the world, will be directly upon the line.

Republican State Convention.

The Republican State Convention in Philadelphia on the 11th of March, will meet in Concert Hall. It will be decorated in the most elaborate manner, with flags, bunting and the coats of arms of the United States, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. The platform is to be extended so as to contain a sufficient number of benches and chairs to comfortably seat all the officers and members of the convention, and the body of the hall will be appropriated to the use of such persons as may desire to attend and witness the deliberations of the convention. On the evening of the 12th of March a grand ratification meeting will be held at the Academy of Music, at which addresses are expected to be delivered by a number of the distinguished statesmen of the country.

AN Alabama letter, giving an account of the tactics of the Conservatives there, whereby the Constitution was defeated, confirms previous statements of the universal stay-at-home policy on their part, and adds that hundreds of negroes and whites, in favor of the Constitution, were induced to stay at home by "pairing off"—one Conservative matching himself with twenty of them, no two knowing the fact. In some places the negroes were told the election would last two weeks, and more generally still a system of persecution was resorted to, whereby thousands were kept away. These things show how outrageous still are the rebels, and how necessary a thing intelligence in an elector is. A well-informed correspondent writes as follows:

I confidently believe that, but from the hopes entertained by the conservative element in the North, all parties would have voted for the adoption of the Alabama constitution, confidently believing that anarchy is the worst of all conditions of society, and that whatever would prevent a Republican half the last fall elections gave the rebels hope, and that by almost uniformly believe that the Republicans will be beaten at the next Presidential election, and that Reconstruction, another man of his stripe, will follow Andy Johnson's successor. They will, in November next, learn that once more they have relied on the Democracy in vain.

GOV. GEARY sent to the House of Representatives, a few days ago, a message containing his reasons for not approving a bill to provide a county poor house in Northumberland county. After pointing out many nonsensical conditions and its almost innumerable grammatical blunders, the Governor concludes as follows:

But why enumerate further? The whole bill is full of inaccuracies, useless repetitions and a flagrant incongruities; and neither the Executive nor the Secretary of the Commonwealth has any information which will enable him to form an enactment on the statute books, in this age of free schools, would be a reproach to the State, which I am unwilling to sanction.

Governor Geary has done a real service by calling attention to the necessity for exercising great care in the preparation of laws, some of which provide the need of the schoolmaster even in the Capitol.

THE Poston *Advertiser* refers, in connection with the Board of Trade Convention, to the credit which the West has for "as large part of the current, unsound views on the questions of currency and finance." In the Convention the West had a large majority, "and had an especially good opportunity to make itself felt," but its action was at once moderate and sound. The *Advertiser* says:

As one tangible result of this convention, it is certain that the commercial men of the two sections will hereafter work together more heartily and intelligently for the mutual explanations which it brought about. And the mind of Richard Rushton will do well to take notice that they will also work together in support of just and correct principles of currency and finance.

THE *Missouri Democrat*, a paper of influence, and which has opposed General Grant's nomination, now favors it. It says: "We no longer are told that his name will bring to our standard those whose accession were weakness. General Grant is being placed, as events unfold, in such a position as to command the hearty support of those who fight for principles alone. His nomination is now urged on the ground that he represents, more truly than any other possible candidate, the Radical element of the Republican party."

THE shad fisheries of Philadelphia are threatened with destruction by the petroleum and other refuse matter from the city running into the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers. The fish sold in that market, we are assured, had an offensive taste, which is attributed to this cause, and the City Councils have been petitioned to protect the fishermen. If this is not done the fisheries must be abandoned, say the Philadelphia papers.

THE banks in the East are holding a large amount of bank currency, which they find it difficult to fully employ. According to a Washington dispatch, the amount of currency in the Treasury has been increasd $3,000,000 since February 1; should this tendency toward an increase in the Treasury balance be continued, it is not likely that the Treasury may find it necessary to sell gold or bonds.

HENRY CLAY DEAN, of dirty shirt memory, is to be joined on the stump in New Hampshire by C. C. Burr, of dirty mouth fame. They are well mated, and two greater political prostitutes exist nowhere. They speak for the Democracy—of course.

IT is said that the New York and Brooklyn bridge project has ended in smoke. The people demanded one, but the capitalists hung back.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

In regard to saints' days in general, journalists are not expected in this country to concern themselves much. But if we allowed the fourteenth of February to pass without devoting a few lines at least to Saint VALENTINE, we should be guilty, not merely of a peccadillo of omission, but of grave dereliction in the duty we owe our readers. We have always entertained great respect for Saint VALENTINE. We are also aware that he is looked upon with much respect by the American people. He is the only saint in the calendar who enjoys the general recognition of Protestants.

We have observed that the most venerable characters in the Hagiology—such as Saint PAUL, Saint PETER and the Evangelists, are frequently referred to without the prefix of distinction which they owe to canonization, in virtue of which their names stand in the almanac. We are pleased to know and say that gentle bishop VALENTINE is seldom or never thus slightingly treated. Even in this Protestant country *he* generally receives his due title, and hence may be justly said to be a saint by Democratic suffrage as well as by solemn ecclesiastical publication.

The VALENTINE of church tradition has been so grossly misrepresented by unscrupulous romancers that we think we cannot better show our regard for his character or more oblige our readers, than by laying before them the authentic account of him contained in the *Legenda Aurea*, or Golden Legends. In that venerable collection the legend of Saint VALENTINE runs as follows, when rendered into the vulgar tongue:

THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE.

"Valentine was an honorable priest whom Claudius, the Emperor, caused to come to him, and to whom he said: 'Valentine, why is this? Wherefore art thou not in our friendship? Adore our gods and renounce they vain belief.' Valentine replied: 'Knewest thou the grace of God, thou wouldst never say such things, but thou wouldst renounce thy idols and thou wouldst adore the God who is in heaven.' And then an officer who was near Claudius said: 'Valentine, what sayest thou about our gods and their sanctity?' And Valentine said: 'I say nothing about them, except that they were men, real wretches all filled with every kind of pollution.' Claudius then said: 'If Christ is the true God, why dost thou not say so?' And Valentine replied: 'Verily, Christ is the only God; and if thou bell evest in him, thy soul shall be saved and thy prosperity shall increase; victory shall be granted thee over all thine enemies.' And then Claudius said to those who were there: "Romans, hear how he speaks with wisdom and uprightness.' And then the Governor said: 'The Emperor is deceived; shall we renounce that which we have believed from our infancy?' And then the heart of Claudius was changed, and Valentine was given in charge to one of the chief officers of the Empire, and the Saint spake thus: 'Lord Jesus Christ, who art the true light, illumine this household that they may recognize Thee as the true God.' And then the officer said to him: 'I am surprised that thou sayest that Christ is the true light, and verily if He illumines my poor daughter who has been so long a time blind, I will do whatsoever thou shalt tell me to do.' and then Valentine, blessed and happy made prayer to God, and he gave sight to the blind girl and he converted all those of the household. And then the Emperor commanded that Valentine's head should be cut off about the year of our Lord Jesus Christ two hundred and eighty."

Thus it stands written about SAINT VALENTINE in the *Legenda Aurea*. As to how his day came to be observed as it is now observed in England, Scotland, and this country, there are different opinions. Doctors agree in saying that the practice of making presents and exchanging love letters on Saint VALENTINE'S day was introduced into England by the Normans. One writer says that "SAINT VALENTINE was a man of most admirable parts, and so famous for his love and charity, that the custom of choosing Valentines upon his festival, took its rise from thence." Others find an ornithological origin of the custom, and tell us that the birds were supposed to select their mates on that day. Others again trace the custom away back to the times of Pagan Rome, and say a custom then prevalent and liable to abuse, received a Christian tone and direction in the mode of celebrating St. VALENTINE'S Day now in vogue. The following hymn to Saint VALENTINE was written by LEIGH HUNT. We must inform the reader that, according to a tradition not mentioned in the Golden Legends, VALENTINE was not merely a Priest, but a Bishop:

HYMN TO BISHOP ST. VALENTINE.

The day, the only day returns,
The true *reddo latter* day returns,
When birds first chirrup in Winser burns—
When a February dawn
Is greeted by two sleepers in lawn
Answer them, Amen—Rejoice,
And a burst of all bird singers,
And a bloom of all bird wings,
Tingling cheeks with rosy buses;
And over all a face divine,
Face good-natured, face most fine,
Face that satisfies and is not cloying,
Even thine,—Yes, even thine,—
Saint of Sweethearts, Valentine!

See! he's dawning!—see! he comes
With the sweet in his thumbkins
Glancing as a ruby ray,
Warm as the heart of May (to-day!)
See his lily sleeves! and how
See the bright bow on his brow!
See the bird historical crook!
And beneath his arm its book
Some sweet verses (not of mine!);
And his hair (twixt saint and dandy—
Lovelocks of the present, half
And black, though with a silver streak,
A strong curl, for age doth hold;
And his book (twixt neck and bold—
Flowing round on either side,
Like a banner) is displayed;
And lifting still, to bless the land,
His very gentlemanly hand.

Hail! O, hail! and thrice again
Hail! thou clerk of sweetest pen!
Unmistaken of all sparrows!
Exquisite bishop!—not at all
Like Bishop Bonner; no, nor Hall,
That gibing priest; nor Atterbury,
Although he was ingenious, very,
And wrote in the verses on the Fan;
But then he swore,—unreverend man!
Unlike very Ken and Bishop Bedell;
Equally benign and cierkly
As by the Bible, Bishop Hoad